

**TOP 25
SNEAK PREVIEW**
Michigan 3rd, Notre Dame 7th,
Penn State 16th, Ohio State 21st

1993 YEARBOOK

The Sporting News

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ALL-AMERICA
RANKINGS**
Best of the best in
Divisions I-A
and I-AA

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- | | | | |
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| Cowboys | 8 Akman | Vikings | 81 Carter |
| Cowboys | 88 Irvin | Vikings | 9 McMahon |
| Broncos | 22 Smith | Falcons | 21 D. Sanders |
| Bills | 7 Elway | Falcons | 80 Rison |
| Bills | 12 Kelly | Falcons | 3 Herbert |
| Bills | 78 B. Smith | Rams | 11 Everett |
| Bills | 83 Reed | Saints | 3 Herbert |
| Bills | 97 C. Bennett | 49ers | 80 Rice |
| Bills | 34 Thomas | Colts | 11 George |
| Dolphins | 13 Marino | Colts | 90 Emtman |
| Dolphins | 83 Clayton | Packers | 77 Mandarich |
| Dolphins | 88 Jackson | Packers | 84 Sharpe |
| Browns | 19 Kosar | Packers | 92 White |
| Browns | 21 Metcalf | Steelers | 26 Woodson |
| Oilers | 1 Moon | Steelers | 33 Hope |
| Oilers | 79 Childress | Steelers | 29 Foster |
| Eagles | 12 Cunningham | Chiefs | 58 Thomas |
| Eagles | 59 Joyner | Chiefs | 35 Okoye |
| Eagles | 21 Allen | Chiefs | 19 Montana |
| Eagles | 34 Walker | Lions | 20 B. Sanders |
| Redskins | 58 Marshall | Lions | 56 Swilling |
| Redskins | 81 Monk | Chargers | 55 Seau |
| Redskins | 80 Howard | Chargers | 35 Butts |
| Jets | 85 Moore | Patrols | 11 Bledsoe |
| Jets | 7 Esiason | Cardinals | 7 Buerlein |
| Jets | 42 Lott | Cardinals | 23 Hearst |
| Bears | 50 Singletary | Seahawks | 96 Kennedy |
| Bears | 4 Harbaugh | | |
| Giants | 56 Taylor | | |

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- | | | | |
|---------|-------------|----------|--------------|
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| Suns | 34 Barkley | Magic | 3 Scott |
| Suns | 7 Johnson | Magic | 25 Skiles |
| Suns | 9 Majerle | Nets | 44 Coleman |
| Blazers | 22 Drexler | Nets | 7 Anderson |
| Heat | 4 Seikaly | Warriors | 17 Mullin |
| Heat | 3 Smith | Warriors | 10 Hardaway |
| Spurs | 32 Elliott | Sonics | 40 Kemp |
| Spurs | 50 Robinson | Bullets | 43 Ellison |
| Hornets | 2 Johnson | Nuggets | 55 Mutumbo |
| Hornets | 33 Mourning | Knicks | 33 Ewing |
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| Bend Rockies | Midland Angels |
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| Capitol City Bombers | Oklahoma 89ers |
| Charlotte Knights | Palm Springs Angels |
| Carolina Mudcats | Prince William Cannons |
| Chattanooga Lookouts | Phoenix Firebirds |
| Colorado Springs Sky Sox | Portland Beavers |
| Columbus Clippers | Quad City River Bandits |
| Durham Bulls | Savannah Cardinals |
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Army	A	DE	G	K	L	N	O	P	QRST	UV
Auburn	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Brigham Young	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
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Duke	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
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Florida St.	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Georgetown	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Georgia	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Georgia Tech	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Hawaii	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Illinois	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Indiana	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Iowa	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Kansas	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Kentucky	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Louisiana	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
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Michigan St.	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Minnesota	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Mississippi	A	DE	G	K	L	N	O	P	QRST	UV
Mississippi St.	A	DE	G	K	L	N	O	P	QRST	UV
Missouri	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Nebraska	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
N. Carolina	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
N. Carolina St.	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Notre Dame	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Ohio St.	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Oklahoma	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Oklahoma St.	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Oregon	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Penn St.	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Pittsburgh	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Purdue	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
S. Carolina	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
SMU	A	DE	G	K	L	N	O	P	QRST	UV
St. John's	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
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Tennessee	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Texas	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Texas A&M	A	DE	G	K	L	N	O	P	QRST	UV
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UCLA	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
UNC	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
USC	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Vanderbilt	A	DE	G	K	L	N	O	P	QRST	UV
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Washington	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
Washington St.	AB	CD	EF	GHI	JKL	MNO	P	QRST	UV	WX
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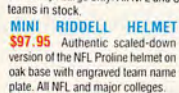
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


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The Sporting News

1993 COLLEGE FOOTBALL YEARBOOK

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Conference previews were written by sportswriters who cover the conferences on a regular basis. Their reports and the charts in this publication were prepared before preseason practices and may not reflect late changes and injuries.

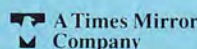
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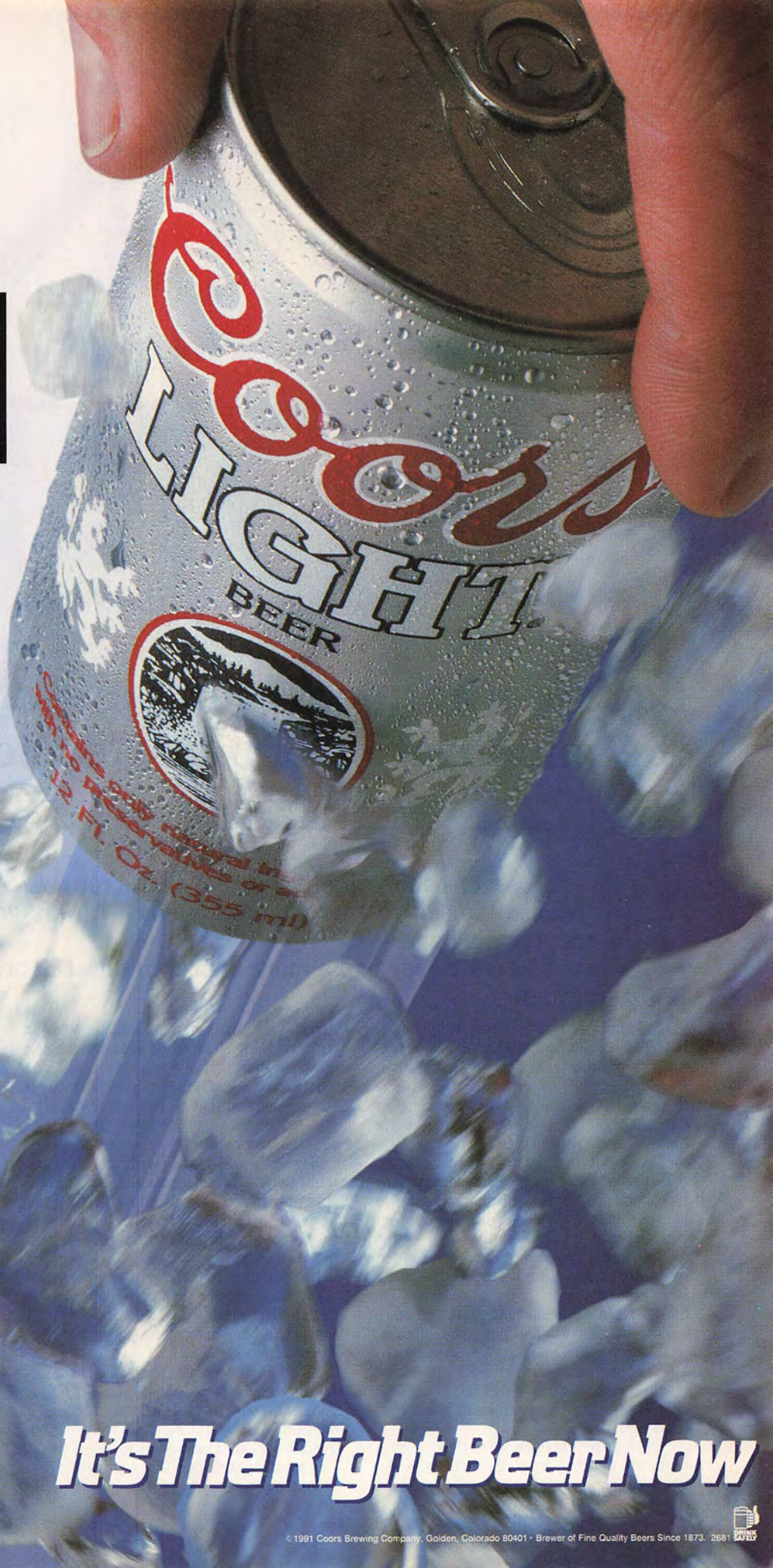
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FIRST DOWN



It's The Right Beer Now



SAINT BOBBY

Lack of a national crown doesn't prevent the canonization of unpretentious Bowden

By DAVID H. CARROLL

Free-lance writer

He is one of college football's real characters. A coaching legend who has endeared himself to the fans and media with his good-old-boy charm and self-deprecating wit.

You will never find a more unpretentious celebrity than Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden.

In Tallahassee, where the 63-year-old Bowden presides over the Seminoles' perennial powerhouse teams, the fit is as perfect as it can get between a coach and a community. The people love Bowden's folksy personality and wide-open, entertaining brand of football. They take great pride in that he does it the right way—playing by the rules. He is held in such high esteem in north Florida that many people commonly refer to him as "Saint Bobby"—a title the veteran coach keeps in proper perspective.

"Yeah, they love me right now," Bowden said with a laugh. "But it doesn't take many losses for that halo they put up over your head to slip down a bit and become a noose."

Bowden knows something about nooses. When he was coaching at West Virginia in 1974, he struggled through a 4-7 season and a lynch-mob mentality set in. The fans hanged him in effigy from trees in his own front yard.

"Oh, it drove me crazy when the dummies came out hanging from the trees with my beautiful name on them," Bowden remem-

bered. "It's kinda hard to explain to your children, 'Hey children, look at me hanging up there from that ol' maple tree.' My kids would come home at night and say, 'Daddy is still up there in that ol' tree.' It got kind of embarrassing to have to say, 'OK, son, go cut Daddy down now.'"

Bowden made up his mind right then and there to bolt West Virginia at the first available opportunity. Opportunity knocked the next year when Florida State called him to the rescue after he had guided West Virginia to an 8-3 record and a Peach Bowl victory.

Bowden likes to joke that when he was at West Virginia, the bumper stickers read "Beat Pitt." But when he got to Florida State, the bumper stickers just said "Beat Anybody."

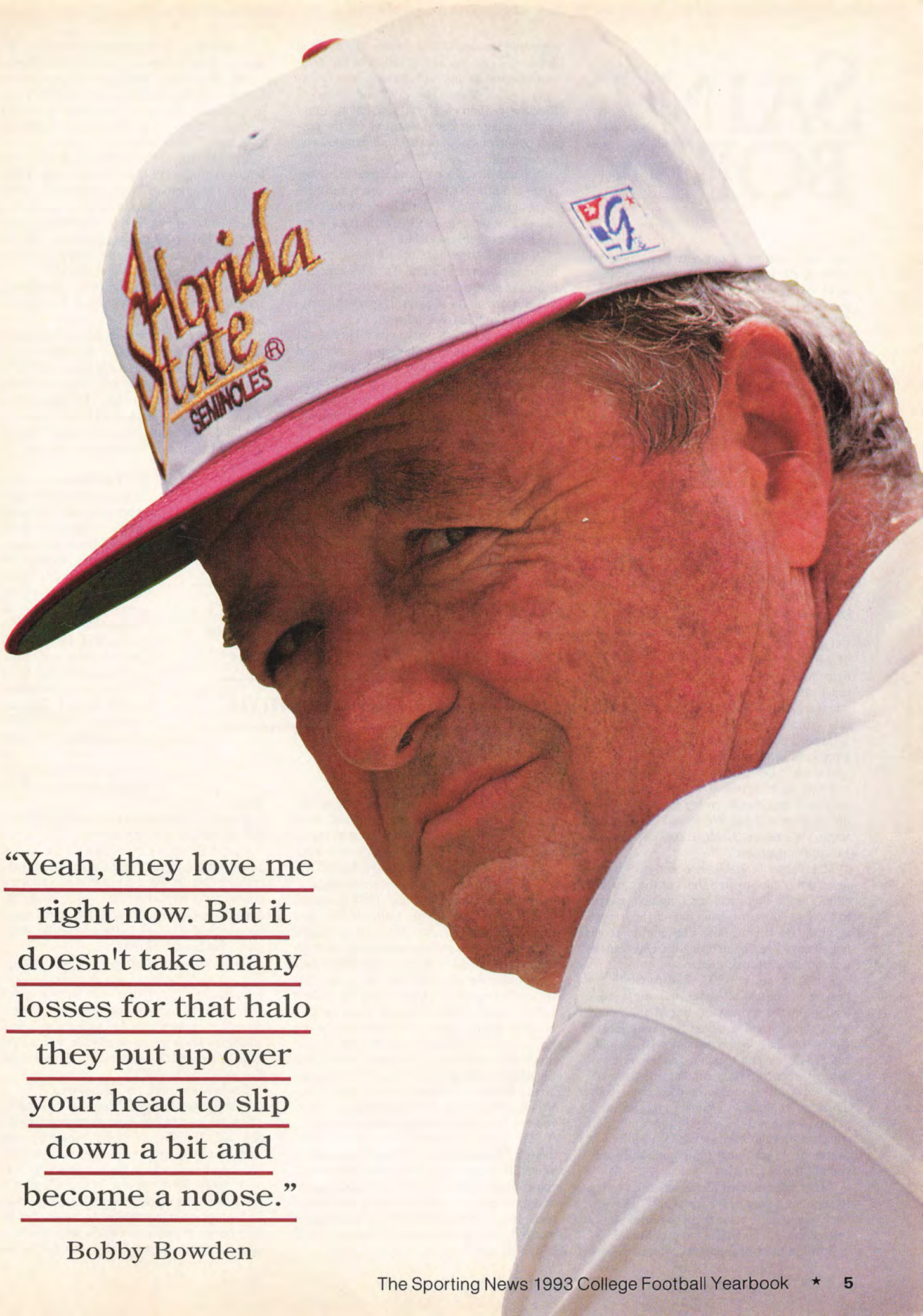
When Bowden arrived in Tallahassee in 1976, the Seminoles had won only four games in the previous three seasons. It didn't take Bowden long to revive the moribund program. The Seminoles went 5-6 in '76, winning their last three games in dramatic fashion.

Bowden claimed the sudden turnaround was the result of an attitude adjustment. "We had pretty good talent when I got here," he said, "but it was talent with a losing attitude. In other words, the kids were physically good, but spiritually or emotionally they didn't think they could win. So we had to turn around their thinking."

He took the momentum of that three-game winning streak and built from there. Florida State compiled a 10-2 record in 1977 and in 1979 went 11-1 and came within one game of a national championship (a 24-7 loss to Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl). The Seminoles have been a constant presence in the national spotlight ever since.

Now, as Bowden enters his 18th season at Florida State and 40th year on the sideline, he is firmly established among the legends in the history of college football. Last year, he guided the Seminoles to an 11-1 record and No. 2 ranking, giving him six straight finishes in the top four. His total of 227 victo-

Continued



“Yeah, they love me
right now. But it
doesn't take many
losses for that halo
they put up over
your head to slip
down a bit and
become a noose.”

Bobby Bowden

SAINT BOBBY

ries ranks second among active coaches and seventh all time. He also is the winningest bowl coach ever in terms of percentage, with a figure of .781 in 16 appearances (12-3-1). His Florida State teams have won eight consecutive bowl games.

But for all of his accomplishments, Bowden is best known to many for his biggest failures—losing seven of his last eight to Miami (Fla.) and never winning the national championship. The stigma of not having won the title doesn't gnaw at Bowden like some people might think.

"We've lost just enough not to get that big ol' prize," Bowden said as he chomped on his unlit cigar. "We've finished second twice, third twice and fourth twice. I figure if we keep hanging around the top long enough, it's gotta happen.

"Truth be known, though, that ol' national championship thing doesn't bother me much at all. It doesn't haunt me. What bothers me are the losses to Miami. The losing of games. In other words, when we play Miami and we lose, it's the loss to Miami that dwells on my mind. It's 'Why did we lose to them? We should have beaten them.' It's never 'Gosh, I just lost the national championship.'"

Miami has probably knocked the Seminoles out of four or five shots at the national title. Florida State has lost only nine games in the last six years—and five of them were against the Hurricanes. Frequently, those losses have been heartbreakers. One fourth-quarter rally after another.

For instance, in 1991, Florida State appeared in control at home, nursing a 16-7 lead in the fourth quarter. But Miami rallied for 10 points and watched Seminole kicker Gerry Thomas' 34-yard field goal go wide right in the closing seconds. Last year, it was *deja vu* when the Hurricanes came from behind on a late touchdown pass from Gino Torretta to Lamar Thomas, tacked on a safety for a 19-16 advantage and then watched Florida State kicker Dan Mowrey's potential game-tying field goal sail wide right as time expired.

"That dad-gummed Miami has been trying to send me to my grave for years," Bowden once quipped. "I want them to chisel on my tombstone '...and he had to play Miami.'"

Bowden built his reputation as a brilliant

offensive strategist. For years, he has been depicted as a riverboat gambler of the sideline because of his love for and success at calling trick plays. The enduring image of Bowden is that of a crafty coaching gray-beard pacing the sideline waiting for the perfect opportunity to spring one of his gems on an opponent.

"I guess I've always liked to goose my opponents a little bit," said Bowden, a native of Birmingham, Ala. "I don't feel comfortable unless I've got a few of these ol' trick plays available in my back pocket.

"I think it was just inbred in me to use these trick plays. It's fun. The kids enjoy it. It breaks up the drudgery of football in practice to work on these plays. It gives the players something to have fun with."

Bowden takes calculated risks. He doesn't simply draw a gadget play on a chalkboard and then go out and use it in a game. His trick-play philosophy is to try the gimmicks in practice—and if they work, keep practicing them until he is completely confident they will work in certain game situations.

"I have to see 'em work over and over in practice before I'll ever try 'em in a game,"

**"That dad-gummed Miami has
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Bobby Bowden

Bowden said. "I try to pull 'em against my defense when they don't expect it and see if it works against them. If they stuff it, then I won't use it. But I feel like if it will work against us, it will work against anybody."

The most memorable of these tricks came in the final minutes of the 1988 Clemson game. With the score tied, 21-21, and 82,500 fans in Clemson, S.C., and a nationwide television audience looking on, the Seminoles set up to punt on fourth and four from their own 21-yard line. But a fake put the ball between the legs of Florida State's LeRoy Butler, who originally lined up as a blocker. Butler paused as Clemson players ran past, then he picked up the ball and ran down the sideline for 78 yards, giving the Seminoles the ball on the Tigers' 1. One play later, Richie Andrews kicked the game-winning field goal. The now-famous "punt-rookie" is a part of college football lore.

"We've run a million reverses and reverse passes," Bowden said. "They're getting to where they're base offense now. But of all those plays we've run, that ol' punt-rookie stands so far out front because it worked so well. Every time we tried it in practice, it worked. That's one reason I was so darn confident in it."

Sometimes, Bowden's reputation as college football's most famous trickster works to his advantage. "Maybe it makes other teams underestimate us to where they're so busy looking for tricks—waiting for me to pull a rookie on 'em—that we're bloodying their nose," Bowden said.

Louisville Coach Howard Schnellenberger, who coached Miami to the 1983 national championship, knows better. "Perception is one thing, reality is another," Schnellenberger said. "The perception may be that he's a riverboat gambler, but his teams have always been fundamentally sound and played good, tough football."

Notre Dame Coach Lou Holtz, a longtime friend and coaching rival of Bowden's, agrees.

"Bobby's a very, very solid football coach who always has his teams well-prepared," Holtz said. "Sure, he does some different gimmicky things—and most of the time they are successful at it—but the bigger the game, the less he does that. I don't remember him doing that very much against Miami, do you? I think he's basically a conservative person.

"I remember watching a game of his back when he was the head coach at Samford (then called Howard College) and playing Furman in 1961," continued Holtz, an assistant coach at William & Mary at the time. "His team was behind and had a fourth and three on Furman's 31-yard line late in the game and he punted. That impressed me." (Bowden's Howard College teams impressed a lot of people from 1959-62, winning 31 of 37

games.)

In reality, Bowden has won with both daring and finesse and with power.

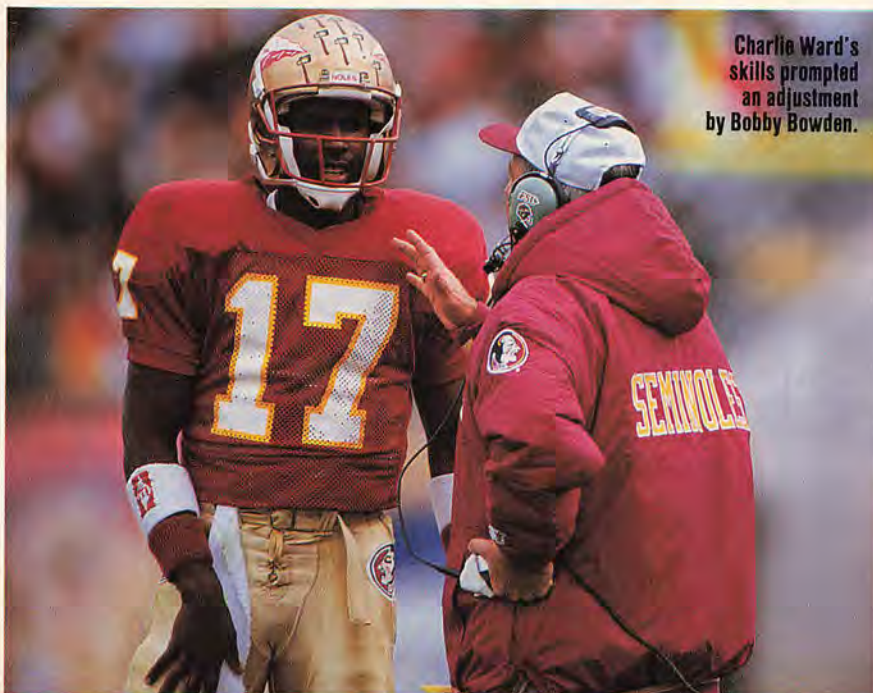
One of Bowden's strengths is that he can adapt to the situation. Last year, after quarterback Charlie Ward struggled in Bowden's traditional I-formation set and a newly installed one-back set, the veteran coach made the successful switch to the no-huddle, shotgun, "fast break" offense.

"That right there shows you how innovative he is," Florida State receivers coach John Eason said. "When you have a coach who's been around as long as he has and he's done it a certain way for so long and he's willing to adapt to a new offense with a new quarterback that has a certain ability, I think that says a lot in itself."

Change is no problem for Bowden.

"First, we tried this. Then, we tried that. Then we tried to blend this and that," Bowden said. "Finally, we found something that worked nearly every time we used it. We just said to ourselves, 'Boy, this shotgun is pretty good. We think that's Charlie's stuff.'"

"When Charlie gets the ball in the pocket with people coming at him, he's just hard to stop because they don't know whether he's going to run or throw. And he just flat wears



Charlie Ward's skills prompted an adjustment by Bobby Bowden.

the defense out. He's just unbelievable in the shotgun. He really is. It's like I've said before, 'Once Charlie leaves, we're going to have to start coaching again,' because the things he does, we can't teach."

Even now, after four decades in the profession, Bowden still gets the familiar adrenaline rush when he immerses himself in the making of a game plan. His enthusiasm for preparation is boundless. He sits in his office and game room at home replaying video over and over for hours at a time, looking for flaws and tendencies in the upcoming opponent's defense.

Bowden's focal point is always Florida State's offense. Other than an occasional suggestion in a meeting, he doesn't fool much with the defense. He turns that over to defensive coordinator Mickey Andrews and his assistants.

A major key in Bowden's run of success has been his ability to exploit the myriad talents of a staff that has been virtually intact since 1984.

"The thing that he does so well is delegate authority to us," said assistant head coach Chuck Amato. "He always knows the job is going to get done. We've all been together for so long that we know how each other thinks and we all have confidence in each other's abilities."

Eason agrees heartily.

"The good thing about it is that when he gives you a job to do, he doesn't look over your shoulder and watch you every day to see whether or not you're carrying out the task," Eason said. "You know what you do is going to show up on Saturdays, and that's the bottom line. His approach gives us a lot of confidence in ourselves."

Bowden, typically, deflects praise toward his assistants. "My staff, thank goodness, keeps getting better and better," he said. "And I get lost back in the shuffle a little bit more, which is good. I do more film study than ever before, but less actual hands-on coaching."

Plenty has changed in college football

since the first time Bowden wore a whistle around his neck as an early-1950s assistant at Howard College in Birmingham.

"The complexity of football now is out of this world," Bowden said. "You know, back when I first started out you coached the kids. They wanted to play. They never questioned you. Oh, that was out of the question to question the coach. And nowadays you're dealing with outside interests. You're dealing with outside distractions. There is so much stuff going on now that it's unbelievable."

Back when Bowden was first getting started in the profession, he studied the Bob Neylands, the Bobby Dodds, the Frank Leahys and the Bear Bryants. "I studied the great coaches," Bowden said. "I studied the way they handled the kids and what they thought you had to do to win. Not so much what strategy they were using in games, but how they were going about their jobs."

Now the ambitious young coaches are studying Bowden, like he observed the legends before him.

What is the secret to his success?

"We recruit good players and we keep them playing hard," Bowden said simply.

Bowden is fond of saying, "One of the best ways to be successful is to come by some good players." Lately, Bowden has come by as many as any coach in the country. One recruiting service or another has rated three of Bowden's last four recruiting classes No. 1.

Certainly, the smooth-talking Bowden has no equal when it comes to making a close on the recruiting trail. He is at his charismatic best when he's selling Florida State football to 17-year-old high school phenoms and their mothers and fathers.

"I will say one thing. Florida State has got the best recruiters, I think, in college football," Florida Coach Steve Spurrier said. "The way they have the ability to convince some players that they can come up there and beat out the high school All-Americans that are already there amazes me. I give

them credit for doing whatever it takes to recruit those players, year after year."

Bowden knows just how crucial recruiting is.

"I don't think you can ever underestimate the importance," Bowden said. "Back in the olden days when I first started, we didn't recruit as extensively as we do now. Back then, it was a game of numbers. In other words, there was no limit. Schools like Alabama or Notre Dame would recruit players just to keep them from going somewhere else. Now today with the cutbacks, you better be selective and you better be a good evaluator of talent."

Bowden shows no sign of slowing down.

"I am not one of those guys anxious to retire," Bowden said. "You know people my age usually are thinking, 'Well, two more years and I'm out of here.' But I'd like to go until I'm 70. That's what I'd like to do."

"I'm still having fun. I still love the whole process of putting it together—trying to recruit the best players, trying to be the best coaches, trying to get the best offense, trying to get the best defense—and then just trying to win, just hoping you can win 'em all and get that treasured prize."

This just might be that breakthrough season. With 16 starters returning, including star quarterback Ward, the Seminoles are poised for another run at the elusive national title.

"Well, it could happen this year," Bowden allowed. "But it could have happened last year and the year before that and the year before that."

"It's not going to be easy. We've got a difficult schedule, plus we might have a target on our back again, too, by being a lot of people's preseason Number 1. To win the dang thing, we're gonna have to play mighty well and have a little luck."

Bowden has always loved challenges. He earned the nickname "King of the Road" in the early 1980s when he took his Seminoles into the backyards of some of the nation's most powerful teams—Ohio State, Notre Dame and Nebraska, for example—and left with victories.

Bowden has been as honorable as he has been successful. He has won with class and without any hint of scandal. "I've always tried to win fairly and cleanly, within the rules," Bowden said. "That is what is fun to me."

Holtz touts Bowden as a quality coach and individual.

"People know that Bobby is an outstanding coach, but he's just as outstanding as a person," Holtz said. "He's a good family man and a very fun guy to be around. I've known Bobby for, oh, 32 years now, and he's never changed in those 32 years. He's still a very personable person with great character."

Bowden is the consummate Southern gentleman. He's friendly and outgoing and has the best manners this side of heaven. He treats total strangers like long-lost friends: "Good to see ya, buddy. Where've you been?"

The gift of gab comes as easily to him as

Continued

SAINT BOBBY

breathing. His speaking delivery combines an Alabama drawl with the timing of a comedian.

Probably the one quote that best de-

scribes what Bowden means to Florida State came from Coyle E. Moore, a former dean at the university. Said Moore: "He is a Southern cracker, to the manner born, perfectly adaptable to us Southern crackers and red-necks of north Florida. He speaks our language, adheres to our religious faith and fits our needs just like a glove."

Bowden feels the same way about Tallahassee.

"This is my environment. I call it the ol' cotton patch," Bowden said. "It's laid-back, just like me. I couldn't imagine feeling more comfortable than I feel here. Let's just say this: My phone number is listed. That shows you how laid-back we are here."

Religion plays an important role in Bow-

den's life. He frequently speaks at churches and Fellowship of Christian Athletes' meetings throughout the South. "I feel an obligation to take those speaking engagements because I'm so thankful for what I've got," Bowden said. "I've always felt a coach has the obligation to try to teach and set an example for these young people."

Bowden is careful of how he handles religion with his players. "I try to make it available to them," he said. "Not, 'Hey, son, you've got to go here. You've gotta do this or you've gotta do that.' I try to just make it available. But the spiritual choice has to be theirs."

The veteran coach maintains an "open door" policy with his players. "One thing I

Son Terry follows path

By RICHARD SCOTT

Birmingham Post-Herald

Check out Terry Bowden's reading list:

"The Autobiography of Malcolm X," by the slain civil rights activist; "Fourth and Long Gone," a fictional satire on football recruiting by former coach Pepper Rodgers; "Poor But Proud: Alabama's Poor Whites," by Auburn history professor Wayne Flynt; "Athletics and Academe: An Anatomy of Abuses and a Prescription for Reform," by Dr. Wilford Bailey, former NCAA president and Auburn faculty representative.

These are the types of books that one would expect to find on the desk of a college president or in the bookcase of a dean or professor—not in the locker of a coach.

But each book has a place and purpose for Bowden, just like each step he has taken along his career path. And with purpose, meaning and even calculation, Bowden's steps have placed him at Auburn, where at the relatively young age of 37 he has the task of rallying the Tiger program.

"I have had an idea of what I wanted to do since about the fifth or sixth grade," Bowden said. "I was blessed with the ability to set my goals early in life. It was almost like the personal commitment you make to Jesus Christ when you're a Christian. I just knew. I never doubted it. I made that commitment to be a football coach and started directing my life toward that."

Convinced that he wanted to be a head football coach like his dad, Florida State's Bobby Bowden, Terry took public-speaking courses in high school to refine his oral skills. After all, coaches have to give speeches, address alumni and recruit top prospects.

He graduated magna cum laude from West Virginia, where he played running back, with a business degree in 1978. Bowden knew then that coaches had to know how to manage the business of a football program and make the most of television,

radio and shoe contracts.

While serving from 1979-81 as an unpaid volunteer coach at Florida State, where he also worked as a full-time assistant in '82, he earned a law degree and spent a summer studying at Oxford Uni-

**"I was not going
to be an
assistant. I was
going to be a
head coach."**

Terry Bowden

versity in England.

He did all of those things so he could be a football coach.

"The law degree was strictly for perception," Bowden said. "That sounds like a hypocritical statement, like I just want to fool people. That's not true. Obviously, my life has changed dramatically because of my ability to mentally challenge myself. It's broadened my horizons from an intellectual standpoint. But, strategically, it was done to help prepare me to better deal with the academic community, to better represent the schools I would one day coach, to have the type of background that would be a good role model for athletes and, hopefully, to walk into an interview and give me an edge."

He had that edge, and the family name, when he got the head coaching jobs at Salem (W.Va.) College and Samford, but he still had to prove himself.

"I was not going to be an assistant," said Bowden, whose brother Tommy and brother-in-law Jack Hines will serve on the Auburn staff. "I was going to be a head coach. I wanted very badly to be a head coach, and that's the route I chose to take to get there."

Salem, which no longer fields a football team and now is known as Salem-Teikyo University, couldn't afford to fly him in for an interview, so Bowden borrowed money from his dad for the flight and made the move pay off. As a 27-year-old coach in 1983, he took Salem from isolated obscurity to success at the NAIA level, going 19-13 in three seasons.

"I took a job nobody would take," Bowden said, "a team that went 0-9-1 the year before, hadn't won one conference championship in 60 years of football, and we started 0-7, won our last three and ended up winning two conference championships and going to the playoffs."

In 1986, Bowden coached quarterbacks at Akron under Gerry Faust. Then, in 1987, Bowden moved to Birmingham, Ala., to coach Samford, the school his father played for and later coached. But he inherited what he called a "terrible NCAA Division III program" that had won just six games in the previous three seasons after restoring football in 1984 following a 10-year absence.

Undaunted, Bowden's '87 team went 9-1 and set several offensive national standards. After that successful debut on the Division III level, Bowden pushed the program into the Division I-AA ranks in 1988 and assembled a four-year plan: By the time his first scholarship players were seniors, Samford would be in the I-AA playoffs. That fourth season, 1991, the Bulldogs made it to the semifinals of the postseason. Last year, Samford finished 9-3, losing to Delaware in the first round of the I-AA playoffs.

Now that Bowden, who finished with a 46-22-1 record in six years at Samford, is the new coach at Auburn, the next step in

don't want them to do is be intimidated by me," he said. "I tell them, 'Men, if you've got any kind of problem, come to my office, we'll close that door and I'll see if I can help you. And I won't tell a soul, if you don't want me to tell a soul. Not your mama or your girlfriend or whoever.' I tell my secretary, 'If a boy ever comes to see me and I'm in a meeting, you get me out of that meeting to see that player.'"

Having reared six children (four boys, two girls), Bowden knows a thing or two about giving out fatherly advice. After all, three of his sons decided to follow in dear-old-Dad's footsteps and become football coaches. One son, Terry, is the new head coach at Auburn. Another, Tommy, is Terry's receivers

coach. And the youngest Bowden son, Jeff, coaches the receivers at Southern Mississippi.

"I didn't try to persuade any of 'em to go into coaching," the senior Bowden reflected. "I left it completely up to them. I didn't encourage them to be coaches because I didn't want them competing against each other."

Terry's ascension to the Auburn job from Samford makes the Bowdens the first father/son duo to lead major-college programs at the same time. "I think he's got every potential to be as good as you can get, whatever that is," Bobby Bowden said.

As good as the old man?

"Huh, well, I sure ain't the gauge," said

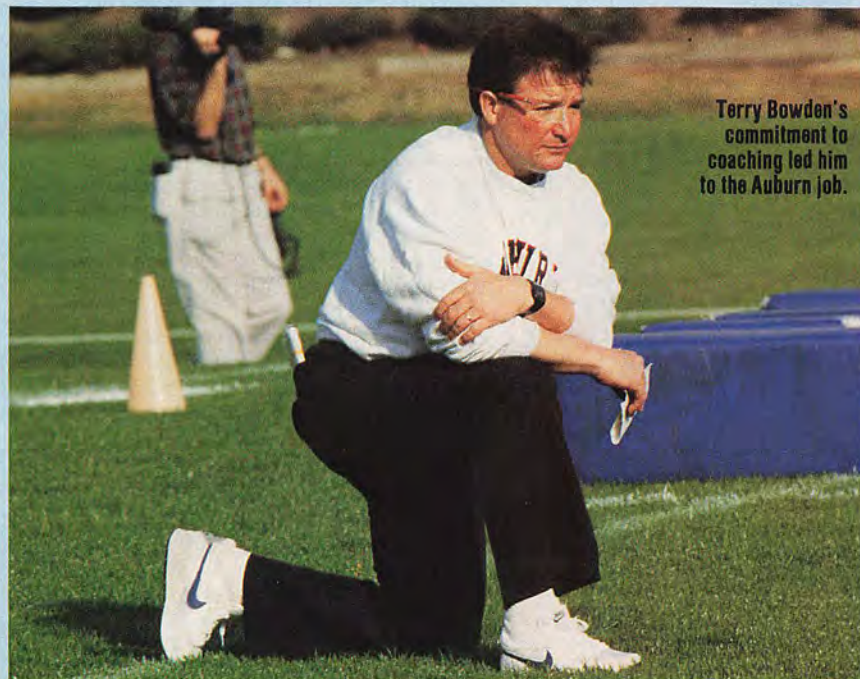
Bowden, chuckling.

These days Bowden is a man in much demand. There are all of the media interviews, booster meetings, after-dinner speeches and church services. There was even a recent guest appearance on the TV comedy "Evening Shade."

"That was the scariest I have been since I don't know when," Bowden said.

Burt Reynolds, the show's star and a Florida State alumnus, made Bowden feel considerably better by presenting him with a replica of an Oscar with the inscription: "For best performance by a football coach playing himself."

It's a role Bowden plays exceedingly well in real life. ■



Terry Bowden's commitment to coaching led him to the Auburn job.

his plan is an undertaking of monumental proportions.

"I kid around and tell people all I want to do is coach until I'm 69 years old and win eight games a year," Bowden said, "and they usually say, 'Gosh, if you only win eight games a year, you might get fired at Auburn. You better win more than that.'"

"But I tell them, if I only win eight and coach until I'm 69, that's when Bear Bryant died and I'll have 324 wins. That's more than him. That's more than anybody's ever had in Division I(A)."

Those are dangerous words in Alabama. Across the state in Tuscaloosa, the Crimson Tide won its 12th national championship in 1992, and the ghost of Paul (Bear) Bryant is very much alive in the hearts and souls of Alabama fans. But Bowden still is setting the highest possible goals.

"I don't want to make my goal that I've got to win it all and be a millionaire by 40," Bowden said. "I don't want my goal to be something that ends when I'm 38. My goal was not to get the job at Auburn. My goal was to retire at Auburn."

Before he can think about retiring, Bowden must return the Tigers to the lofty sta-

tus they enjoyed under Pat Dye, who coached Auburn to four Southeastern Conference championships in 12 years before resigning last November under the weight of health problems and alleged NCAA violations.

When it came time to find Dye's successor, names such as Louisville's Howard Schnellenberger, Air Force's Fisher DeBerry, North Carolina State's Dick Sheridan, Southern California's Larry Smith and Georgia Tech's Bill Lewis became a part of the daily rumor mill. But it was Bowden who got the job.

"The route I took, I had no idea it was going to end up where it did, but I was always moving in that direction," Bowden said.

The initial reaction was shock and bewilderment from Tiger fans who wondered how Auburn could hire a I-AA coach from a team that had lost, 55-0, at Auburn that same fall. Bowden understood that, but he also knew he had come too far to turn back. This was the opportunity he had worked for since childhood, and he quickly went about winning over the majority of Auburn people with his energy and enthusiasm.

Dye's blessing and public support helped his cause, but not as much as his first recruiting class at Auburn.

Undaunted by the specter of NCAA probation and the fact that Alabama had just won the national title, Bowden went head-to-head against the Crimson Tide for the first time. Despite the two perceived handicaps, Bowden opened the eyes of football observers throughout the South when he signed two of the state's top prospects, offensive lineman Willie Anderson and tight end Jesse McCovery, both of whom had visited Alabama during the Crimson Tide's national championship celebration week-end.

While all of that has helped him earn the acceptance of most Auburn people, some skepticism remains. Bowden still hasn't won a football game at Auburn, and no matter how many games he wins, he absolutely must beat Alabama. His critics know it, his fans know it, but nobody understands that better than Bowden.

That's why he's out of bed at 4 a.m. and in the office at 4:30 a.m. That's why he moved his family—wife, Sheryl, and four daughters—into a small apartment in the athletic dorm until construction on his new house can be completed this summer.

And that's why he hired Wayne Hall as his defensive coordinator. Hall was Dye's defensive coordinator and wanted the Tigers' head coaching job, but Bowden didn't let his ego interfere with this hiring decision.

"Since I'm going to spend so much time with the offense, I needed the best defensive coordinator out there," Bowden said. "Wayne Hall is the best defensive coach in the country."

Whether Bowden will be the best thing for Auburn remains to be seen. He has done everything he has needed to do up to this point, but the rest is up to him.

"This story is being written in the beginning chapters," Bowden said. "If I fail the next four years, it becomes, 'Well, the plan was good, but the execution was not.' The bottom line is, you've got to win. You've got to win. All of these plans and goals mean nothing if you don't work hard. They'll help you if you win, but you still have to be a good football coach, work hard and win." ■

Moments after refusing to meet players' demands for his resignation last October, South Carolina Coach Sparky Woods encountered a collection of microphones, note pads and television cameras eager to chronicle what had happened at a hastily called team meeting.

Woods was confused. He hadn't even had time to call his wife and tell her about the impromptu meeting. How had the media found out?

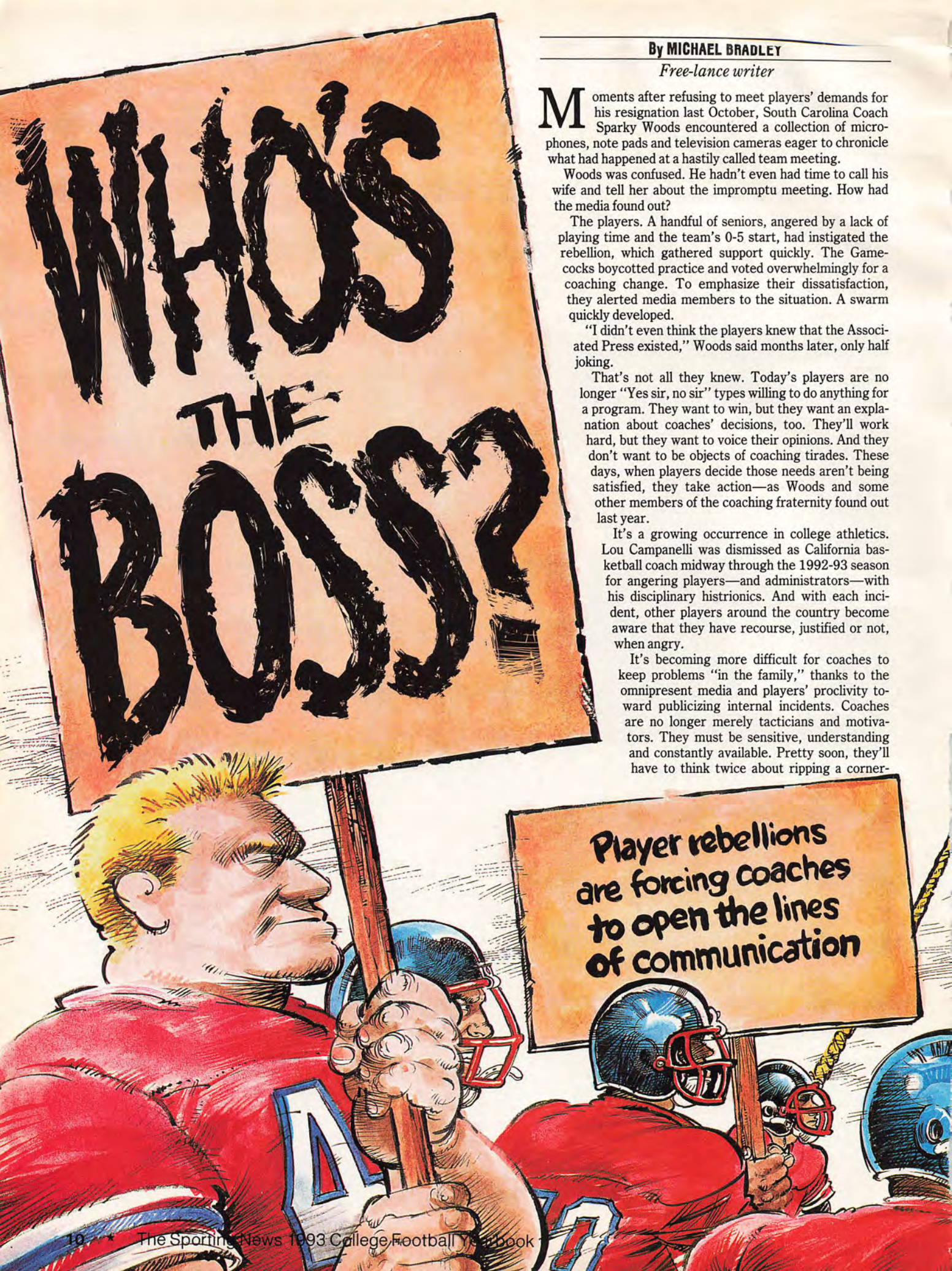
The players. A handful of seniors, angered by a lack of playing time and the team's 0-5 start, had instigated the rebellion, which gathered support quickly. The Gamecocks boycotted practice and voted overwhelmingly for a coaching change. To emphasize their dissatisfaction, they alerted media members to the situation. A swarm quickly developed.

"I didn't even think the players knew that the Associated Press existed," Woods said months later, only half joking.

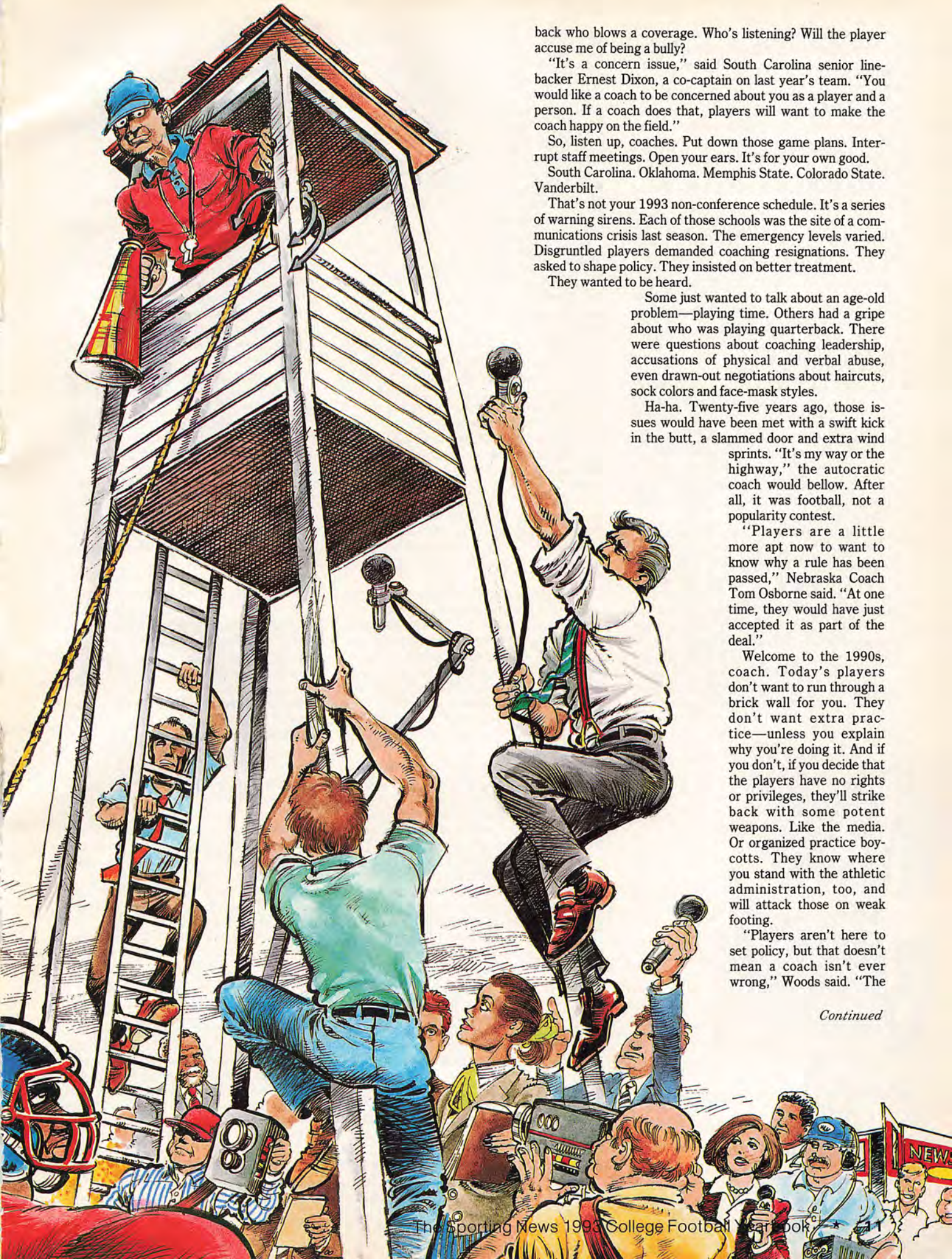
That's not all they knew. Today's players are no longer "Yes sir, no sir" types willing to do anything for a program. They want to win, but they want an explanation about coaches' decisions, too. They'll work hard, but they want to voice their opinions. And they don't want to be objects of coaching tirades. These days, when players decide those needs aren't being satisfied, they take action—as Woods and some other members of the coaching fraternity found out last year.

It's a growing occurrence in college athletics. Lou Campanelli was dismissed as California basketball coach midway through the 1992-93 season for angering players—and administrators—with his disciplinary histrionics. And with each incident, other players around the country become aware that they have recourse, justified or not, when angry.

It's becoming more difficult for coaches to keep problems "in the family," thanks to the omnipresent media and players' proclivity toward publicizing internal incidents. Coaches are no longer merely tacticians and motivators. They must be sensitive, understanding and constantly available. Pretty soon, they'll have to think twice about ripping a corner-



Player rebellions
are forcing coaches
to open the lines
of communication



back who blows a coverage. Who's listening? Will the player accuse me of being a bully?

"It's a concern issue," said South Carolina senior line-backer Ernest Dixon, a co-captain on last year's team. "You would like a coach to be concerned about you as a player and a person. If a coach does that, players will want to make the coach happy on the field."

So, listen up, coaches. Put down those game plans. Interrupt staff meetings. Open your ears. It's for your own good.

South Carolina. Oklahoma. Memphis State. Colorado State. Vanderbilt.

That's not your 1993 non-conference schedule. It's a series of warning sirens. Each of those schools was the site of a communications crisis last season. The emergency levels varied. Disgruntled players demanded coaching resignations. They asked to shape policy. They insisted on better treatment.

They wanted to be heard.

Some just wanted to talk about an age-old problem—playing time. Others had a gripe about who was playing quarterback. There were questions about coaching leadership, accusations of physical and verbal abuse, even drawn-out negotiations about haircuts, sock colors and face-mask styles.

Ha-ha. Twenty-five years ago, those issues would have been met with a swift kick in the butt, a slammed door and extra wind sprints. "It's my way or the highway," the autocratic coach would bellow. After all, it was football, not a popularity contest.

"Players are a little more apt now to want to know why a rule has been passed," Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said. "At one time, they would have just accepted it as part of the deal."

Welcome to the 1990s, coach. Today's players don't want to run through a brick wall for you. They don't want extra practice—unless you explain why you're doing it. And if you don't, if you decide that the players have no rights or privileges, they'll strike back with some potent weapons. Like the media. Or organized practice boycotts. They know where you stand with the athletic administration, too, and will attack those on weak footing.

"Players aren't here to set policy, but that doesn't mean a coach isn't ever wrong," Woods said. "The

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kids' brains are big, too."

In a country where sexual harassment has become part of our national psyche, where businesses are relying more and more on employee input, and where government is being challenged to account for its actions, it's only natural that college athletes would demand a say as well. It may shock the old, Lombardi-is-God guard that demanded undying respect and loyalty, no matter what the price, but today's football players want individual identities.

That isn't necessarily a bad thing. But since individuality isn't the easiest thing to blend into a sport that requires as much team discipline and commitment as football, you can see why coaches are struggling.

"All players want to win, and I think they're willing to pay the price," Memphis State Coach Chuck Stobart said. "They just want it to be fair and square."

Stobart's opinions on player-coach relations have been hard-earned. Three games into last fall—all losses—his players boycotted practice, frustrated at not meeting high preseason expectations and disenchanted about the coaching staff's diminishing communications techniques. After a hastily arranged summit that produced a firestorm of unwanted publicity, the Tigers rebounded to close the year with six victories in eight games.

Everything's sunshine and roses at South Carolina these days, as well. But after last year's 0-5 start, the vultures were migrating to the coaching offices. Woods stood firm, but he also took a hard look at the Gamecock staff's relationships with the players and vowed to change. Suitably placated, the team won five of its last six games and enters this season as a possible force in the Southeastern Conference's East Division.

"Anything that forces people to sit down and talk works out for the betterment of all," Woods said. "But I wouldn't recommend

what happened last year as a way of getting things done."

At Oklahoma, what started as a meeting between three players and Coach Gary Gibbs about the treatment of backup quarterback Steve Collins following an ugly 15-15 tie with presupposed patsy Oklahoma State turned into a two-hour team meeting that preempted practice. The Sooners lost their next game, the regular-season finale against Nebraska, but everyone involved appeared pleased with the measures taken to improve communication.

"Instead of ignoring the players, we canceled practice and had a team meeting," Gibbs said. "Everybody wants to be successful, and when you don't succeed, everybody has questions why. During our discussion with the players, we were able to address their concerns."

Things weren't so tidy at Colorado State, where Earle Bruce was fired as coach following last season amid accusations of verbal and physical abuse of players. Though Bruce has had a long, successful career, his standing in Fort Collins was tenuous, thanks to a new athletic director and university president. He was a victim of disgruntled seniors who sensed an opportunity to play administrator.

"I had no problems with the guys who were playing," Bruce said. "But it's tough for a guy going into his fourth or fifth year in a program to be on the third team. It's tough to talk to your peers or family in that situation."

Vanderbilt's Gerry DiNardo won't even comment on an incident involving Mike Gandolfo, a senior last year who was dismissed after taping a private conference with the coach. Gandolfo claims that DiNardo was a martinet, exercising his authority through terror and scare tactics. DiNardo supporters say that's preposterous. If anything, the coach is too nice, and Gandolfo was merely a recalcitrant player angry at not seeing enough field time.

No matter who is right, there has to be some concern among coaches that these issues are even coming up. Part of it comes from losing. But part of it stems from the increasing pressures put on athletes to do well in class, assimilate into a campus world that could be much different from their single-parent home life and still get bad on Saturday afternoons. Coaches who tend to the modern student/athlete's concerns have no problems. Those who look past them end up in front of microphones trying to explain boycotts or widespread dissension.

"Times have changed," Ohio State Coach John Cooper said. "When I played, things were more militaristic. You didn't go see a coach if he didn't call for you. Now, I interact with my players all the time, in the locker room and the weight room."

"But you still need a professional relationship, too."

★ ★ ★

Several times throughout a season, Mississippi State football players will receive one of those how-am-I-doing questionnaires that are so popular at banks, restaurants and hotels. The surveys come courtesy of Bulldogs Coach Jackie Sherrill, who wants to

know his players' opinions on a variety of subjects, from how comfortable they feel talking with the coaching staff to whether they are receiving adequate academic counseling and if what they were told during the recruiting process was true.

"Players want a coach sensitive to their needs," Sherrill said. "That's important to them. What's sensitive? Does the coach care about the player? Will he push the player to be better?"

"It has nothing to do with winning and losing or X's and O's. What players are saying is that they are put into a situation where they need help. If they feel they're not getting help from a coach or faculty or administrator, you have a problem."

Sherrill isn't looking for a perfect score. In fact, he'd prefer that the players didn't feel too comfortable confiding in the coach.

"There has to be a feeling of authority and respect for discipline," Sherrill said. "It's the same thing as telling your father everything. If you're buddy-buddy with him, can he discipline you?"

"I tell the players they're not going to like me every day. But that's not the issue. The issue is what is my role and what is theirs."

Sherrill developed his progress-report approach during his coaching stint at Texas A&M. While there, he befriended a player's father, who relayed feedback from the team to Sherrill. The coach was surprised at what he heard and decided to find out more—thus the pop quizzes.

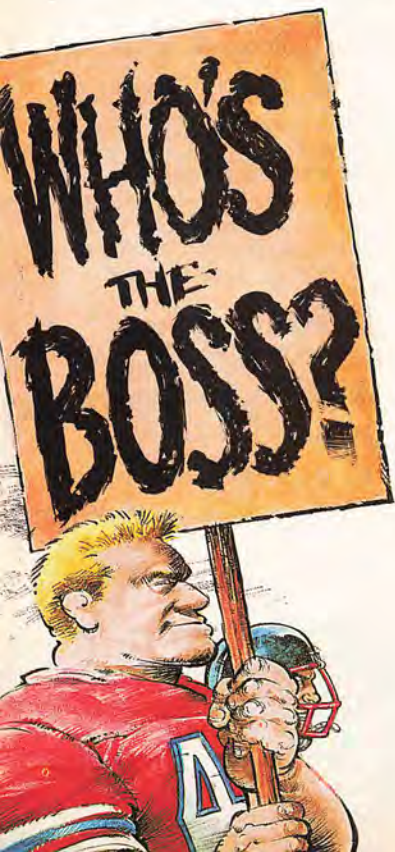
"One thing I've found," Sherrill acknowledged, "is that coaches don't give enough dialogue back to the players or evaluate their individual performances. Sometimes a coach doesn't know how to tell a player that he's not fast enough to play. I stress to my assistants to evaluate all the time and make no false promises."

Stobart agrees with Sherrill and blames some of last year's disharmony on the Tiger staff's lack of feedback to the players. Part of the problem came from the NCAA-imposed practice and playing limit of 20 hours per week. In its efforts to meet preseason expectations, Stobart's staff spent most of its time focusing on game plans, practices and scouting. When the Tigers started so poorly, the players felt neglected. Their revolt was as much an effort to get the coaches' attention as to create a full-fledged upheaval.

"We were spending most of our time teaching football and not very much on communications," Stobart acknowledged.

The increased need for improved player-coach interaction is precipitated partly by the changing environments that produce today's student/athletes. More players are arriving on campus from single-family settings and from school districts that don't prepare them fully for college. They come to programs expecting a chance to play football but requiring unprecedented levels of academic and personal support. And coaches are being judged—by administrators, fans, media, even Congress—on how well they deliver it.

"I think the issues we're discussing with players today are broader," Gibbs said. "The academic side requires more communication. There are also increased expectations and responsibilities of being a stu-





dent/athlete from a behavioral aspect.

"All those things are at the forefront today more than ever before. A coach must be involved in the communications process and not just concerned about beating an in-state rival."

New Temple Coach Ron Dickerson cites the decreased number of graduate assistants—young aides who could relate to the players and vice versa—as a reason for some breakdowns in player-coach relations. Ten years ago, there were five such assistants on every staff. Now, there are two, and they could be 35-year-old unemployed coaches just looking to keep a toehold in the profession. Dickerson believes a vital link in the communications chain has been removed. To prevent serious ramifications, coaches must reach out more.

Even if coaches eat with the players, hang out with them in the locker room and listen to Nirvana and Ice-T, it won't change the basic decision-making process. The coach is still in charge, and policy will be determined from the top.

"High school coaches have to let players know they're not signing a scholarship to run a program," Stobart said. "They're going to get an education and participate on the football field."

They must, however, have input.

"Players want to know more about what's going on and why," Bruce said. "They're brought up to question what goes on, and they want a little more say."

Woods uses sophomore quarterback Steve Taneyhill as an example. The free-spirited passer helped ignite the Gamecocks last year and became a national curiosity with his long, blond hair, earring and MTV-style attitude. Woods received a variety of opinions on how to shackle Taneyhill, but he decided to let the signal-caller go, just as he

Earle Bruce, Gary Gibbs (left) and Chuck Stobart (below) know all about the need for coach/player communication.



did players who chose to wear face masks designed to protect eyeglasses—a la Deion Sanders—even though their vision was perfect.

"There's a fine line between discipline and harassment," Woods said. "Discipline is necessary, but nobody wants to be harassed. What makes things tough is that we're going through a period of individuality, and football requires more discipline than any other sport."

"So, the question becomes, how can a player express his individuality without hurting the team. I grew up in a stiff-collar era, and here's a guy like Taneyhill having big fun playing football. He still wants to do well, and he's helping me as a coach understand the individuals on our team."

Coaches may spout that "I'm OK, you're OK" stuff, but when a player needs to be disciplined, they won't back off. Let up, and they run the risk of appearing too weak and alienating players who want a strong hand. After all, this is football. Bruce was criticized by his players for his temper, but he attributes the outbursts to football's aggressive nature.

"It's not a classroom-style confrontation," Bruce said. "Confrontations on a football field are heated and lively and over quickly—just like a play."

Still, disciplinary methods have changed. Any displays of corporal punishment are out.

"Grabbing a face mask, shaking a player or kicking him in the butt—those days are over," Cooper said. And if a coach yells, he had better be careful not to lace his tirades with too many personal insults or a constant gush of profanity.

"To a degree, it's like the tough-love theory," Dickerson explained. "The players know we're going to be tough as nails, and they found that out last winter through our 6 a.m. workouts and our 5:30 a.m. punishment workouts. They know we mean business."

"Yet, when they're done running at 5:30, and they come panting over to the coach, (the coach) is there listening. There's no resentment. The player knows he made a mistake and doesn't want to be back there anymore. Then, he can go on with the rest of his day."

Good communication comes in many forms. Sherrill tries to use positive reinforcement. If he's upset at the condition of a player's dorm room, he uses a teammate's neat chamber as an example. Stobart gives players input into the time of day the team should work out. "If the players want to practice in the morning, the practice will probably be better," he said. Dickerson and his staff will fan out once a week to Temple's classrooms to let the players know they're concerned about their academic progress.

But outreach methods can be blurred by the bottom line. When a team wins, more people play, everybody's happier at practice on Monday and disagreements can be resolved without much acrimony. Losses magnify differences between players and coaches and create disharmony.

"Everybody's trying to communicate better, but it still comes down to the emotions of winning and losing," Woods said. "The important thing is that if you're going to be successful, you have to face crises and turn them into positive things. That way, you can have a better understanding when problems do come up."

Plus, you can avoid standing in front of those microphones. ■

FATHER KNOWS BEST



From his CYO days to Syracuse, Graves learns from his dad

By DAVID RAMSEY

Syracuse Herald-Journal

The arm was powerful, even then. Years ago, when Marvin Graves had just learned to walk, he was watching a televised football game with his father, Melvin, in the family living room in Washington, D.C.

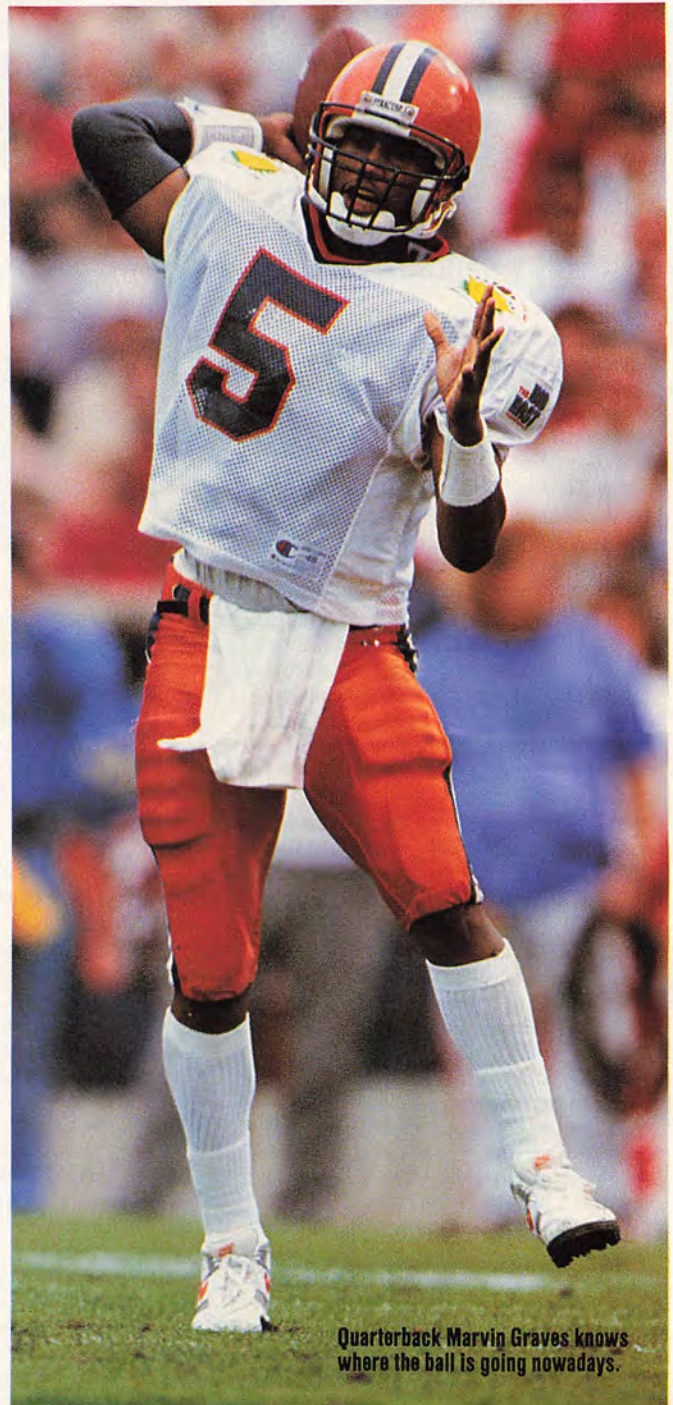
A commercial interrupted the action, giving little Marvin the chance to show dad his arm strength. Marvin picked up a miniature football and fired it at Melvin.

The throw had ample velocity but lacked accuracy. In fact, the ball sailed by his father.

"He broke a bunch of his mother's drinking glasses," Melvin recalled.

Nowadays, Marvin Graves throws his passes with better aim and usually finds his targets. But he has maintained his talent for breaking things—only now it's football records.

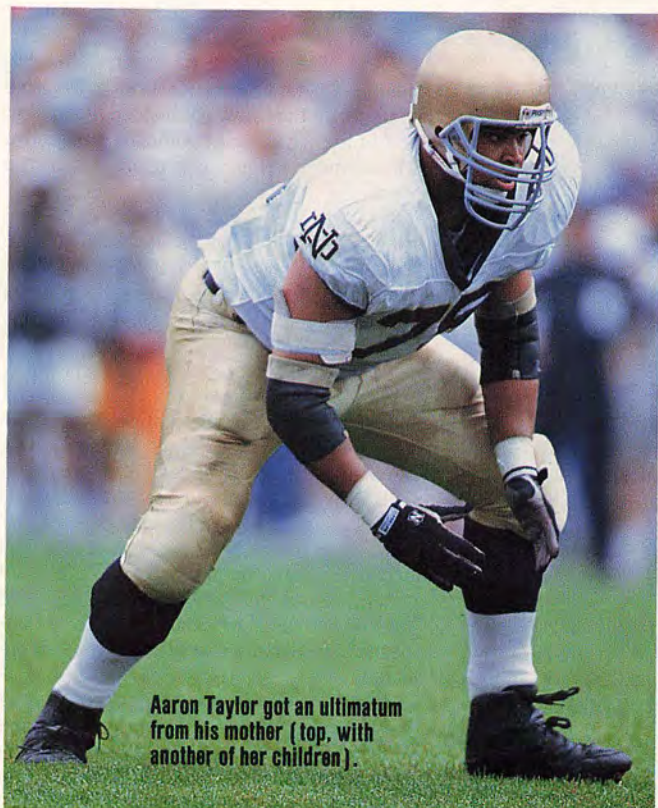
Syracuse football is known for its running backs—Jim Brown, Ernie Davis, Floyd Little, Larry Csonka and Joe Morris. But Graves is refashioning that image. The senior already owns school passing records for career yards and efficiency, yards per game and yards per attempt.



Quarterback Marvin Graves knows where the ball is going nowadays.

Continued on Page 16

MOTHER KNOWS BEST



Aaron Taylor got an ultimatum from his mother (top, with another of her children).

"It's 20 years ago, but I still
remember praying for a
great big boy who would
play football, was smart as
a whip and would be loved
by people of all ages. And
that's exactly what I got."

Mardi Taylor

Thanks to his mom, Notre Dame's Taylor gets his life in order

By BILL DOHERTY

Free-lance writer

This fall, senior offensive lineman Aaron Taylor will be the B.M.O.C at Notre Dame. Literally. At 6-foot-4 and 299 pounds, this particularly *big* man on campus is everyone's All-America and a certain first-round selection in next spring's National Football League draft.

The pro scouts will time Taylor over 40 yards. Measure his body fat. Test his bench press. Judge his lateral quickness.

All those things can be calculated. But what can't be measured is Taylor's heart or all that he has overcome to be the player he is today. When asked about Taylor, Notre Dame Coach Lou Holtz started out by saying he had run out of adjectives to describe the Californian.

Holtz speechless? A virtual impossibility, you say. After all, Holtz is one of college football's best storytellers. He can't possibly run on empty in the adjective department. Holtz is a guy who can make an opposing third-string quarterback sound like Johnny Unitas incarnate. Or transform Navy, one of the lighter touches on the Fighting Irish's annual land-mine schedule, into a collegiate version of the mid-1970s Pittsburgh Steelers.

Come on, Lou. Give it another try. Tell us about Aaron Taylor.

Continued on Page 18

FATHER

Most important, Graves has led Syracuse to a 27-8-2 record, including three straight bowl victories.

As he prepares for his final season, Graves appears to be a strong contender in the Heisman Trophy derby. Davis is Syracuse's only previous winner, having won the award in 1961.

"I like going against the norm," Graves said of his exploits at the school once known as Running Back U. "I like surprising people."

His father isn't surprised by his son's success. Melvin could tell, almost from the start, that Marvin, the youngest of his and Katrina Graves' four children, was destined.

"The thing about Marvin that you've got to know," said Melvin, an electrician, "is he didn't play with little guns and wagons and stuff like that. Balls—that's all he wanted. If you would get him a ball, he was happy. When you got him ready for bed when he was a little boy, he'd have to have his ball in bed. Didn't matter what kind of ball it was. If he had it, he was all right."

Melvin has not played a detached role in his son's development. He has attended virtually every football game his son has ever played, beginning with Catholic Youth Organization games in Washington, continuing at Archbishop Carroll High School and carrying on to Syracuse. Melvin has missed only one of Marvin's college games—the 1990 Aloha Bowl in Hawaii.

After CYO games, Melvin took his son aside for private talks. He taught Marvin to think about the game, to avoid mental mistakes.

"He always wanted to know what he had done wrong," Melvin said, "especially if something happened and he didn't understand. I'd tell him what I saw."

The talks continue to this day. At Syracuse home games, you can find Melvin sitting in Section 101 at the Carrier Dome. He watches the goings-on with remarkable intensity. He is looking for shortcomings—it doesn't matter how minuscule—to point out to his son.

After games, father and son will eat with Katrina, usually a big dinner that she has prepared, and then take a walk. Melvin will tell Marvin what he gleaned from his performance, what he believes can be improved. The talks have changed little since the old days when Melvin towered over his youngest child.

"We may talk about a long pass I may have missed," Marvin said. "He tells me, 'Relax. Do what you do in practice. Don't change anything in the game. Don't get emotional.'"

"Right then and there, I may not want to hear it, but when the situation comes again, I can hear his voice, 'Relax. Relax.' When we talk, it may not mean anything right away, but later it'll help me."

Graves, at 6-foot-1 and 196 pounds, certainly owns the physical tools to go with his lifelong mental preparation. He is, as was 1987 Heisman runner-up Don McPherson,

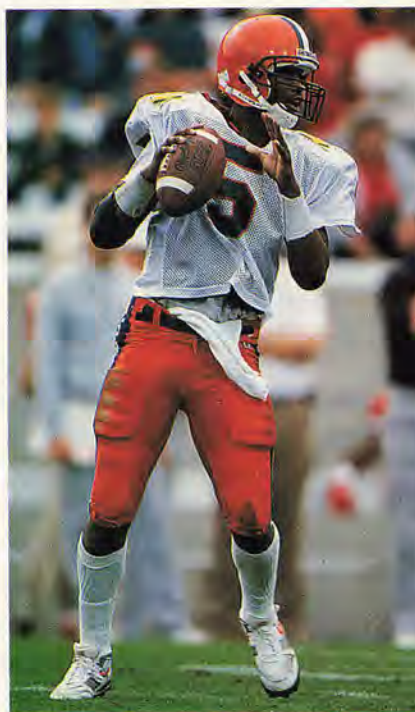
an ideal player to run Syracuse's option offense. He has a powerful arm. He can run, as 12 career rushing touchdowns attest. And he can throw on the move.

His versatility doesn't end on the football field. Graves played high school baseball and basketball. His favorite high school football target was receiver Lawrence Moten, now a basketball star at Syracuse.

Moten also played basketball with Graves. He said the quarterback could be a superb college point guard. Moten goes so far as to compare Graves to the Boston Celtics' Sherman Douglas, another Washington product and former Syracuse standout.

"Well," Graves said of Moten's flattery, "I think I'm OK. But my basketball career is over."

Graves played basketball with a focus on sharing. He was, as you might expect, a passer, a quarterback on the court. His father acknowledges that he, the elder Graves, was



Marvin Graves hopes pro scouts are taking note of his passing exploits for the Orangemen.

a bit of a gunner in his day. Melvin played for Armstrong High School in D.C., battling against such prep stars as John Thompson, then a skinny, finesse-oriented center, and Dave Bing, who went on to stardom at Syracuse and later earned a plaque in basketball's Hall of Fame.

Despite the basketball heritage, Marvin always looked first to football. He studied the game with the aid of his father, listening and watching. They watched games every Sunday afternoon. Both are devoted Redskins fans.

When Graves began playing quarterback in high school, Melvin splurged, buying a video camera. After games, Graves rushed home, sat in the same living room where he had once shattered glasses and watched himself.

"It helped me," Graves said of his countless private viewings. He focused mainly on

the extremes, with touchdowns and interceptions being replayed over and over.

The time spent scrutinizing his game has paid off. He has thrown for 200 or more yards 12 times, including five such performances last season. As a sophomore, he shredded the Ohio State defense for 309 yards and two touchdowns in the Hall of Fame Bowl. And, as a freshman, he ran for two touchdowns and passed for two more in the Aloha Bowl against Arizona's reputedly stingy defense.

Last season, though, Graves' best-remembered throws are ones he wants to forget.

During a midseason game at West Virginia, Graves sprinted out of the pocket and ran out of bounds. After taking a couple steps off the field, he took a stinging hit from the Mountaineers' Tommy Orr. Graves hesitated for an instant. Then he unloaded a point-blank fastball at the defender.

Chaos followed, with players throwing punches. Syracuse trainer Don Lowe tried to break up the brawl but instead found himself in the middle of it. Officials kicked two Mountaineer defensive starters out of the game.

Graves, who avoided ejection, picked away at West Virginia's depleted defense and led Syracuse to a last-minute, game-winning touchdown. He says he regrets throwing the ball in anger, though. Lost his cool, he said.

At home against top-ranked Miami (Fla.), it seemed as if Graves would lead the Orangemen to another dramatic victory. The game was dramatic, all right, but not quite a victory. With the Orangemen trailing by a 16-10 score and time running out in the regular-season finale, Graves marched the Orange down the field, his passes carrying Syracuse deep into Miami territory. While it had taken most of the game, Graves finally had figured out the Hurricanes' defense and appeared in control. Then things got complicated.

When the Carrier Dome is full—as it was for the Miami game—the air gets hot and stuffy. The heat dehydrated Graves, throwing his system out of whack and causing him to vomit. Miami's defense was reeling, but so was Syracuse's quarterback.

The situation forced Orangemen Coach Paul Pasqualoni to call a crucial timeout. With a chance to regroup, Miami's quick linebackers slowed the drive with two sacks.

Still, Graves didn't back down. His head and stomach were a mess, but he remained in the game. With his body failing him and Miami's defenders swarming all around him, he nearly engineered one of the biggest victories in Syracuse sports history.

With the Carrier Dome crowd roaring and time about to expire, Graves dropped back at Miami's 32-yard line and scanned the field. He looked and looked before finally lofting a pass to All-America tight end Chris Gedney. The ball, Gedney and Miami defensive back Casey Greer all met at the Hurricanes' 3. While he made the catch, Gedney could advance no farther and Syracuse's hopes for a big-time upset died.

The play remains vivid in Graves' mind. He usually pushes defeats—and bad plays—out of his mind. This moment,

though, won't go away.

"That loss haunts me," Graves said. "I won't put it away until after we beat Miami this year."

Graves' inability to cope with the Miami loss isn't characteristic of his usual approach to the game. He tends to shrug off almost everything. He has even been able to forgive Carrier Dome football fans, who for mysterious reasons booed him early in his career.

Carrier Dome basketball fans grow quiet when games turn ugly for Coach Jim Boeheim and his players. They wait silently for the team to revive. Football fans aren't so patient. They get surly. They boo. They can be rude.

As a redshirt freshman, Graves listened to Carrier Dome fans roar their displeasure with ill-fated passer Billy Scharr, a highly touted Upstate New York prospect who never won the hearts of Syracuse supporters. The booing short-circuited Scharr's career; he left the Syracuse program even though he had a season of eligibility remaining.

"I vowed it would never happen to me," Graves said.

When it did happen, Marvin turned to his father. Melvin had sat there in the stadium, listening to the boos descending upon his son, but he says he didn't much care about the fans' jeers.

"Frustrated fans," Melvin said. "They don't bother me at all. The same person who's booing, after he sees a 50-yard touchdown pass, he'll start yelling, 'He's my man. He's my man.'"

"I told Marvin, 'If you hear that stuff, you're not concentrating enough.'"

Marvin did hear the boos, but in the end they didn't crush him.

"I looked at it as a challenge to get better," he said. "I either could go out and get better or I could soak in my sorrows."

"If I was a fan, I would boo, too. I would want to see perfection. But fans have to understand that we're only human. We're not perfect."

The boo birds' antics ended last season. Fans may have finally realized they were mistreating one of college football's prime talents.

"I think that the people of central New York genuinely love Marvin and appreciate how versatile he is, what a great kid he is," Pasqualoni said.

With local fans won over, Graves now wants to conquer another audience—pro scouts. McPherson, the last master of Syracuse's option, suffered through a frustrating National Football League career, riding the bench in Philadelphia and Houston before fleeing to Canada.

Don't expect a repeat, Graves emphasized.

"Donnie is Donnie and Marvin is Marvin," Graves explained. "I'm not following in Donnie's footsteps. I'm striving to be better. I'm trying to go a little farther."

He has a strong chance to reach his goal. After all, Graves is a better pure passer than McPherson, who threw long with remarkable skill but struggled to hit open receivers five yards away.

Pasqualoni clearly remembers a Graves throw last season that left a nasty brand on the Texas Longhorns. Graves sprinted left and then saw Kerry Ferrell open to his right. While twisting his body, Graves rifled a 30-yard pass that hit Ferrell in stride. Later, Pasqualoni recalled, Graves somehow winged a pass through a maze of Texas defenders into Antonio Johnson's hands.

"He was on fire," Pasqualoni said of Graves and his pinpoint throwing.

Graves, aware that the NFL is wary of option quarterbacks, wants to be known first and foremost as a passer. His role models are Denver's John Elway and Philadelphia's Randall Cunningham, quarterbacks with excellent legs but better arms.

"It bothers me that I'm not known as a pure passer," Graves said. "If a passer comes out of an option offense, everyone sees his versatility and says, 'Option quarterback.' You can get labeled. Sometimes, they lose sight of what I can do."

What Graves wants to do next, after his Syracuse days, is join the league where Elway and Cunningham earn millions to throw footballs.

Melvin is certain his son will play in the NFL. He saw the promise a long time ago in a glass-strewn living room.

"He used to tell me when we watched Redskins games, 'I'm going to be there. I'm going to be there on television,'" Melvin said with a laugh, his voice bouncing with joy.

"He was right. He is going to be there." ■

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MOTHER

Finally, Holtz recovered and said: "Aaron Taylor is one of the finest young men I've ever coached both as a person and an athlete. It's mind-boggling the things this kid has overcome."

Mardi Taylor has told her son's story a thousand times. But she never gets tired of it. It's a story that book publishers and television's movie-of-the-week types have already talked to her about. But she has resisted. It's too personal.

Mrs. Taylor reared Aaron alone from the time he was 1½, when her former husband left their Mill Valley, Calif., home. It was a mixed marriage: Mardi is white and her husband black, which didn't sit too well with the folks back in Brownsburg, Ind., when the two were dating.

The prejudice was intolerable. Her family wasn't happy with the prospect of the marriage. On top of that, Mardi was threatened with the loss of her job at a Midwestern university if she went ahead with the marriage. So, the couple married and moved to California in the early 1970s.

By 1972, Mardi was pregnant.

"It's 20 years ago, but I still remember praying for a great big boy who would play football, was smart as a whip and would be loved by people of all ages," she recalled. "And that's exactly what I got."

Aaron was a model child. A straight-A student and standout athlete. But something was missing: a father figure.

"It was very difficult for my mother and me," Taylor said. "She had to play so many different roles . . . mother, father, disciplinarian, breadwinner. It was hard. There were things you missed out on, normal father/son activities like fishing together. Or a father teaching his son how to ride a bike."

"But my mother did a tremendous job. And things were going fairly well, until the eighth grade when my curiosity or desire to be with the 'in' crowd took over."

From the eighth grade to his sophomore year in high school, Aaron Taylor saw his life spiral out of control. The boy with all the answers, the honor student, was quickly becoming a failure.

"I was a thug," Taylor acknowledged. "I was drinking, smoking weed and out partying all the time. I was even selling drugs to friends to make some extra money. I never felt right about what I was doing, but I wanted to fit in."

The price was high. Because of his drinking and drug use (mostly marijuana and cocaine, he says), Taylor slipped from straight A's to a 1.7 grade-point average in his sophomore year at Mill Valley's Tamalpais High School.

"It was tearing me apart to watch him destroy himself," Mardi Taylor said. "Here was a kid that was special. He was given gifts that ordinary kids didn't have. He was wise beyond his years. He had a sparkling personality. And I felt he was given all these special attributes for a reason, that he was put on this earth with something important to do. And he was throwing it all down the

toilet.

"I was losing him and I didn't know what to do. I had tried reasoning with him. I had tried anger. I didn't know what to do."

One night in the spring of 1988, Aaron went to the beach with a couple of girls for one of his out-all-night drinking sprees. His mother worked nights as an intensive-care nurse, so Aaron thought he could party until dawn and still get through the front door before she did.

"I was a thug."

Aaron Taylor

Wrong. When he arrived home at 7:30 a.m., Mardi Taylor was waiting for him. It wasn't the first time that it had happened. In fact, he had done the same thing the day before. Mrs. Taylor knew that something drastic had to be done to alter her son's collision course with disaster.

"I told him that I didn't have many house rules, but that the ones I did have were not negotiable," Mrs. Taylor said. "He was



Aaron Taylor and his mother relocated so he could play for a powerhouse prep football team.

breaking all of them and I just couldn't accept it anymore. So I told him that if he couldn't live by rules, that he'd have to leave."

Mrs. Taylor thought this ultimatum might wake up her wayward son. But instead, the defiant 15-year-old packed up his things and, a half-hour later, was out the door.

Part of Mardi Taylor told her that she was doing the right thing, but she also was scared to death that she had just made the worst mistake of her life. All of her friends and family told her that she was dead wrong, but it wasn't something that she had planned

out. It just happened. Her son had pushed her too far and she had to take a stand.

"I was shocked that my mother gave me that ultimatum to shape up or ship out," Taylor recalled. "But it was the first time that I really realized the significance of what I was doing to me and my mom."

She knew she was taking a huge gamble, but Mardi Taylor had one thing in her favor. She knew exactly where her son would go—to his best friend's house. She called there every day, but never spoke to Aaron. Instead, she spoke with his friend's mother, who was keeping a constant eye on Aaron. The first three days, Aaron was in a cocky, I-can-make-it-on-my-own mood. By midweek, freedom was getting old and Taylor was growing quiet. By the end of week one, reality began to set in. His mother, the only family he had ever known, had thrown him out of the house. He had no family. No future.

Finally, Taylor broke down and cried. At this point, his mother called and the two talked. Mardi said he was welcome to come home, but only if he was willing to obey her rules. In other words, he had to study and quit drinking and using drugs.

"When I finally talked to him, after a week's time, I told him that we had both made enormous mistakes," Mardi Taylor said. "His mistake was that he had been given a choice to shape up or get out and that he had chosen to get out. Then I said that my mistake was giving him a choice in the first place."

The prodigal son returned home and the two had a long talk. Hugs and tears were the order of the day. Amid all the crying, Mardi Taylor lectured her son about getting his life together. This time, he was listening. During their discussion, she asked him what he wanted to do with his life.

His response? Taylor told his mother that his dream was to play professional football. At that point, Mrs. Taylor became the parental version of a high-powered lawyer and peppered questions at her son. How do you go about becoming a pro football player?

Go to a powerhouse college program and play well enough for NFL scouts to notice you, he replied.

She didn't let up. It was time for tough love. How do you get to play for one of these powerhouse college teams, wondered Mardi Taylor, an Indiana University graduate who knew the answer to her question.

Go to a high school with a strong football team, get noticed and earn a scholarship, Aaron said.

A scholarship? "In my day," Mrs. Taylor said, "it was important to get good grades if you wanted a scholarship. Is that true for football players?"

Her son responded with a barely audible "yes." Then Mardi Taylor started her closing argument.

"I knew that he could get good grades; he's a gifted kid," Mrs. Taylor said. "So I asked him how he expected to get anything but lousy grades if he was drunk or high and couldn't remember what he had read."

Taylor got the message, loud and clear. There was one problem, though. His high school was better known for fine arts than a

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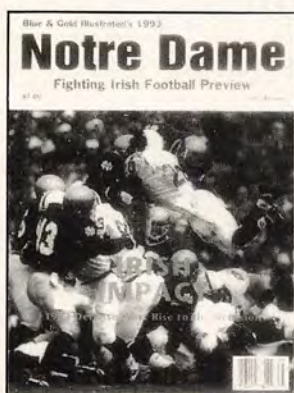


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MOTHER

fine football team. Mardi Taylor didn't want excuses. She told him to choose a high school with a standout football team and she would pick up and move there.

Taylor decided he wanted to play for De La Salle High School in nearby Concord. A year earlier, the two had seen a TV feature about the school's strong football program.

So, Mrs. Taylor contacted the school and asked if it had openings. The procedure was that a letter had to be written, describing why Taylor wanted to attend De La Salle. His mother wrote part of it, stating her reasons. Aaron wrote the other part. He was accepted several months later.

Mother and son relocated to Concord. The 90-minute move gave Aaron a fresh start away from the bad crowd he had fallen in with. "My mother saved my life," Taylor said. "She dropped everything, picked up and moved—all for me. And things worked out well. Within two weeks, she found a job. It was like it was fate or something."

Taylor arrived at De La Salle as a raw 280-pounder. He was, in his own words, a sloppy player. But Taylor wasn't about to blow his second chance. In the classroom, his grades soared to a 3.6 average. On the field, he lost 30 pounds, hit the weight room and transformed himself into a 1989 high school All-America.

As a result, all the big boys—Notre Dame, Southern California, Washington, California and Stanford—came calling for Mardi Taylor's big boy. His first visit was to Notre Dame in less-than-ideal conditions for a Midwest school hoping to woo a California kid. It was December. Snow was on the ground. But, according to Taylor, not even a



Irish offensive lineman Aaron Taylor, a truly big man on campus, is an imposing figure on the field at 6-foot-4 and 299 pounds. Coach Lou Holtz calls Taylor's off-the-field maturation "mind-boggling."

missed assignments," he said. "It might have been the worst display of offensive-line play in the history of college football."

Things got better, to be sure. As a sophomore, Taylor was the young pup of an Irish offensive line that started four seniors. He beat out a fifth-year senior and two juniors to start 10 games at left guard for the Sugar Bowl champion Irish. Taylor followed that up with an outstanding junior year—which included All-America honors from THE SPORTING NEWS and a nomination for the Lombardi Award, given annually to the top lineman in college football.

This year, Taylor faces another challenge. He will be moved to a new position, left tackle. Despite the change, he will be counted on to lead an offensive unit that lost 86 percent of its scoring production from '92.

"We don't need Aaron to try to be Superman, to try to live up to all of the accolades," said Holtz, who now admits he didn't know that much about Taylor's past when he re-

thousands of lives, especially kids who have gone astray."

No matter how many people become part of Taylor's life, it's clear that his mother will forever hold the most special place in his heart. In fact, Taylor gave some brief thought to turning pro after last season—he wanted to give his mother a new house, new furniture, new clothes.

But all those plans were put on hold after one phone call to his mother, back home in Concord. "She told me that it would be a dumb move (to declare for the draft), that I still had growing up to do, physically and mentally," Taylor said. "That was the end of that discussion."

With her son safely ensconced at South Bend, Ind., in the fall of 1990, Mardi Taylor started looking for a more rewarding job. She found what she was looking for in the San Francisco County-sponsored Fragile Infant Program. As part of the program, Mardi has served as a foster mother to seven or-

"I sensed all along that he had a big future ahead of him."

Mardi Taylor

blanket of the white stuff could hide the Notre Dame mystique.

"I just went on my visit and fell in love," Taylor explained. "As cold as it was, as far away from home as it was, there was just something special about this place. In my mind, Notre Dame was the ultimate challenge. I figured that if I could make it there, I could make it anywhere."

Taylor was in for a rude awakening. He quickly went from being a dominant high school player to a young man trying to avoid total embarrassment in practice against the likes of All-America Chris Zorich. "You had no choice at Notre Dame. You either strap it on or get your butt kicked," Taylor said.

Taylor moved to No. 2 on the depth chart in his freshman year and saw his first action that season against Purdue. It was an inauspicious debut, to say the least. Taylor can't help laughing as he recalls the scenario.

"I think I was in for four plays and had one personal foul, one offside penalty and two

cruited him. "We just need him to be himself. If he does, we'll have a good football team."

In the classroom, Taylor, a sociology and philosophy major, has a 3.0 GPA and is scheduled to graduate on time next May. After graduation, he wants to work with underprivileged children.

"I want to show kids that there's an alternative," Taylor said. "Kids grow up in inner cities, on food stamps, and they look around and see drug dealers driving a Mercedes. I want to either start my own program or get involved with an existing program to show kids that there is another way—an honest, hard-working way, to make something of their lives."

The message is more likely to sink in because Taylor has been there. And he has survived.

"I sensed all along that he had a big future ahead of him," Mardi Taylor said. "He's not just a football player. He's going to touch

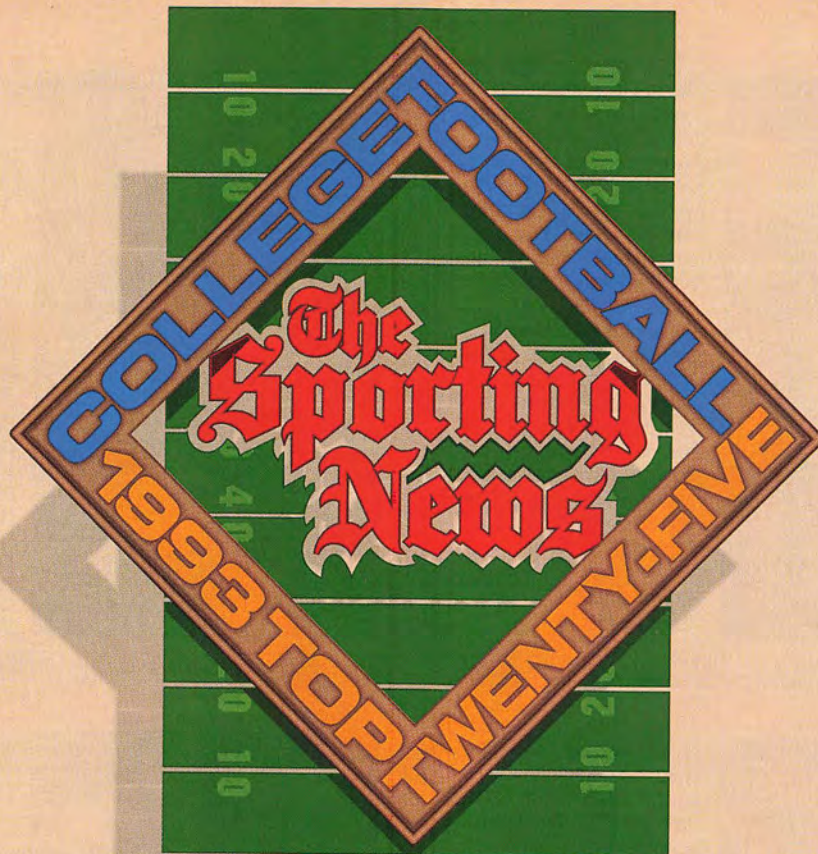
phan children—all infants born to mothers who were drug or alcohol abusers during their pregnancies. As a result, the babies were born with such illnesses as AIDS, cardiac defects and lung disease.

Mrs. Taylor became so attached to a pair of 3-year-old twin boys—youngsters whom she cared for as part of the program—that she legally adopted them. Their futures were uncertain at the time, but both have since tested HIV negative. Still, one of the boys has cerebral palsy and the other is mentally retarded.

At first, Aaron didn't understand why his mother would take on the challenge of rearing the twins, but now he supports her wholeheartedly. After all, his future didn't look too promising at one point, either.

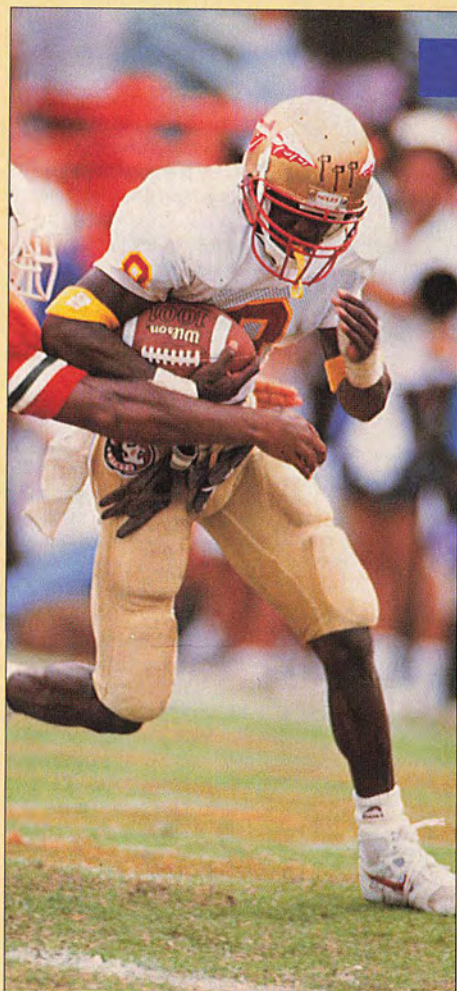
"That's my mom," Taylor said. "Her heart is so big. She just wants to help these kids have a chance in life. With her love and guidance, they'll be OK. She'll see to it."

Just as she did for Aaron. ■



1

FLORIDA STATE



Every year, Charlie Brown lines up to kick the ball. Every year, Lucy pulls it away. Every year, Florida State threatens to win the national championship. Every year, it drifts wide right. So forget Charlie Ward, the point guard/quarterback/magician. Forget the chorus line of tailbacks. Forget linebacker Derrick Brooks, who may make everyone forget Marvin Jones. Bobby Bowden recruited the nation's best kicker, Scott Bentley of Aurora, Colo., to plug the biggest hole on his team. The schedule is scary: the ACC, Miami (Fla.), Notre Dame, Florida. If Bentley can kick, watch out. If not, don't despair. Charlie Brown never hit a home run either—until this year.

Cornerback
Corey Sawyer

Linebacker
Derrick Brooks



2

ALABAMA



Stunned to learn Alabama hasn't been named champion-for-life, Crimson Tide fans have ended their party. Not so for Coach Gene Stallings, who must rebuild a defensive front that keyed the No. 1 season. Ends John Copeland and Eric Curry were gobbled up quickly in the NFL draft. Sophomore Brian Burgdorf is challenging junior Jay Barker, who is 17-0 as the starting quarterback. Barker will benefit from that record and narrower hash marks (those quails he throws won't have as far to go before they die). The Tide has won 23 straight. Don't put those party hats away.

Running back
Chris Anderson

3

MICHIGAN



College football's Rorschach blot has a 12-game undefeated streak yet didn't beat anyone in 1992 who finished with a winning record. Peer closely. What do you see? There's the outline of a No. 1 defense. There's junior Tyrone Wheatley, who will win the Heisman if he gets some blocking. Since Michigan builds offensive linemen the way Ford makes cars, that should be no problem. But have you driven for No. 1 lately? It's been 25 years since a Big Ten team won the national championship. In what way will the Big Ten blow it this year? Stay tuned.

Linebacker
Steve Morrison

4

SYRACUSE



The Orangemen finished three yards away from No. 1 last year, thanks to a last-play loss to Miami (Fla.). The players, however, thought they belonged on top, and that aura of good feeling carried Syracuse through a win in the Fiesta Bowl. But it's easy to feel good when you have a four-year starter at quarterback like Marvin Graves, who has been the MVP of all three bowl games in which he's played. Senior Shelby Hill is the next great Syracuse receiver. Since summer in Syracuse is non-existent, the rematch at Miami in the humidity of mid-October looms large.

Wide receiver
Shelby Hill

5

TEXAS A&M



Texas A&M has the perfect remedy for our national economy: pay employees for work they don't perform. Those lovable Aggies: can't lose on the field, can't get out of their own way off it. Only the NCAA and an overzealous booster found a way to stop tailback Greg Hill. The Aggies asked that Hill serve a two-game suspension. He'll do at least that, the second game being at Oklahoma. Ouch. Hill's absence puts a greater burden on sophomore quarterback Corey Pullig. There's one good thing the Aggies have going for them: They play in the woebegone Southwest Conference.

Tailback
Greg Hill

6

MIAMI (FLA.)



Not even Miami can survive two tidal waves in one season. However, unlike others in the post-Hurricane Andrew/post-Alabama wreckage, Miami Coach Dennis Erickson has materials on hand. Frank Costa takes over for Gino Torretta (astute Hurricane watchers know that Miami's four national titles came with first-year quarterbacks). But not even Joe Montana could solve Miami's running problems. A tough early schedule means the 'Canes had better grow up fast. Erickson has joked that seven wins would be a success. You were joking, weren't you, Dennis?

Defensive end
Darren Krein

7

NOTRE DAME



We remember 1993 very well. It was the year Ron Powlus won the Heisman Trophy on his way to becoming the first freshman selected No. 1 overall in an NFL draft. Phooey! The way Lou Holtz treats freshman quarterbacks, Powlus may petition the U.N. for assistance. But don't worry: Paul Failla or Kevin McDougal will handle the job of replacing Rick Mirer. With Jerome Bettis and Reggie Brooks gone as well, Holtz will do his woe-is-us bit about the ground game. If Holtz wants to worry—and he does—he ought to look at the Fighting Irish's paltry pass rush instead.

Defensive tackle
Bryant Young

8

NEBRASKA



Only Tom Osborne could figure out a way to lose the No. 1 spot in career winning percentage in the middle of winter. John Robinson, at .819, surpassed Osborne's .805 when Southern California rehired him in January. But hey, leave Dr. Tom alone. Nebraska won the big ones last year. It was the little one at Iowa State that sucked the life out of the Cornhuskers. They should be revived, however, by the narrower hash marks, which will help talented sophomore quarterback Tommie Frazier. Calvin Jones will have more room, too, with fellow I-back Derek Brown in the pros.

Quarterback
Tommie Frazier

9

COLORADO

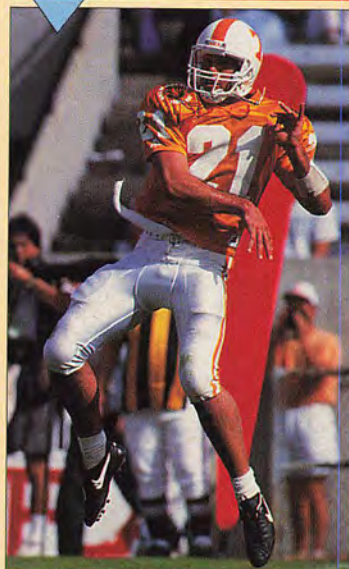


Should passes thrown a mile above sea level count? No one pays attention to 300-yard three-woods in Colorado, so should 300-yard passing performances be a big deal? Coach Bill McCartney ditched the I-bone offense last year with the zeal of a convert only to see his Buffaloes finish No. 100 out of 107 Division I-A schools in rushing. McCartney says Colorado will run more in '93, but it doesn't matter. For all the pyrotechnics of quarterback Kordell Stewart and nine other returning starters on offense, McCartney must rebuild his defense. A tough early schedule doesn't help.

Tailback
Lamont Warren

10

TENNESSEE



You're Phillip Fulmer and your employer dumped a legend to give you the job. You were 4-0 as the interim head coach, but you wonder: Is that good enough? Fulmer's task in his first full season at the helm is easy: beat Alabama. Easier said than done. The Volunteers have lost seven straight to the Crimson Tide, including last year's 17-10 loss sandwiched between one-point losses to Arkansas and South Carolina. Those three games sealed Johnny Majors' fate. Fulmer just needs too many young players to come through to reach the top in 1993.

Quarterback
Heath Shuler

11

WASHINGTON



With Billy Joe Hobert borrowing money like the federal government and other unsavory charges swirling about, all the Huskies needed in 1992 was for "Dateline NBC" to produce their highlight film. Washington allowed 83 points in two season-ending losses, and Hobert, the \$50,000 quarterback, is, uh, spent as a college player. So is Mark Brunell. But with sophomore Damon Huard aboard, quarterback is the least of Coach Don James' problems. Tailback Napoleon Kaufman is so good he may put Beno Bryant on the bench—or vice versa. The defense, however, is untested.

Linebacker
Andy Mason

12

ARIZONA



Question: How far can you get with half a team? Answer: Halfway. Arizona had one of the nation's best defenses and one of its worst offenses in 1992, which explains its 6-5-1 record. Low scores are popular in golf-crazy Arizona, but last year was ridiculous. The Wildcats lost by scores of 8-7 and 7-6, which is fine—if you're playing baseball. Unfortunately, most of the offense returns. Dan White, a Penn State transfer, must come through at quarterback for Arizona to move up, but it won't take much. Rob Waldrop and a few of his friends have returned on defense.

Noseguard
Rob Waldrop

13

GEORGIA



Coach Ray Goff spent spring practice trying to tear the ligaments in the knees of his running backs. Hey, it worked for Garrison Hearst, whom NFL doctors discovered had tore a ligament sometime last season on his way to rushing for 1,547 yards and becoming the nation's scoring leader. But with Hearst and wide receiver Andre Hastings leaving early for the NFL, the spotlight falls squarely on junior quarterback Eric Zeier. And don't be surprised if Zeier suffers sleep deprivation from extreme exposure from that spotlight. Unless Goff finds a defense, he, too, won't sleep much.

Linebacker
Mitch Davis

14

STANFORD



Three Super Bowl rings and a co-Pacific-10 title later, we'll find out in 1993 if Bill Walsh is a coach or a copier salesman. Having lost one of the nation's best defenses and one of its top offensive weapons (Glyn Milburn), Walsh has scrambled like Joe Montana to recoup. He began last February, when he darted in and out of the grasp of the NCAA during recruiting season. It's the price Walsh pays for fame (and for having Montana help him recruit). The Cardinal will struggle early against good teams, but don't worry about quarterback Steve Stenstrom. Worry about the defense.

Quarterback
Steve Stenstrom

15

FLORIDA



Steve Spurrier never admits defeat, which must have confused the hell out of him four times last year. A "rebuilding" season in which Spurrier was forced to play untested freshmen on the offensive line will pay off. Most of the rest of the offense returns as well, but Spurrier must find a quarterback to replace Shane Matthews. Errict Rhett is the third-leading rusher in school history. The Gators have won 19 straight at home, and with every tough opponent on the schedule (except Georgia, which Florida plays at the Gator Bowl) coming to Florida Field, this is a team to watch.

Wide receiver
Willie Jackson

16

PENN STATE



Joe Paterno spent part of his off-season reading Plutarch, who once said, "Where the lion's skin will not reach, you must patch it out with the fox's." With the Nittany Lions' skin reaching into the Big Ten Conference for the first time, Paterno may need some patches. Quarterback Kerry Collins and fullback Brian O'Neal underwent off-season surgeries. The offensive line is young. Linebacker U. has only one starting "backer" returning on a defensive unit that must carry this team early. Paterno has waited 28 years to coach in the Rose Bowl. He can wait one more.

Defensive tackle
Tyoka Jackson

17

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



John Robinson wants the Trojans to return to what they were from 1976-82, when he coached one national championship team and two Heisman Trophy winners. He has one of those Heisman winners back this year, but Charles White is 35 years old and a coach, not a player. Can Dwight McFadden or Deon Strother fill the role once so capably filled by White and Marcus Allen? USC has nine returning starters on defense, and end Willie McGinest is so good you could put the sweater girls alongside him and do fine. A soft early schedule will ease Robinson's return.

Defensive end
Willie McGinest

18

BRIGHAM YOUNG



It's too bad Coach LaVell Edwards can't trade one or two quarterbacks for some scholarships. He has four passers (Ryan Hancock, John Walsh, Steve Clements and Tom Young) good enough to start. Whoever plays quarterback, he will know where wide receiver Eric Drage is at all times, which is more than some secondaries have done. A schedule that includes a rough stretch of midseason games—including a visit by Notre Dame to Provo—does BYU no favors. It will test the Cougars' depth, so maybe Edwards should hold onto all those quarterbacks.

Halfback
Jamal Willis

19

NORTH CAROLINA STATE



Every year, the Wolfpack gets beaten in recruiting. And every year, the team gets a bowl bid. Dick Sheridan still hasn't won an ACC title, something he thought he had last year before someone let Florida State into the league. Kids, deadbolt those doors. N.C. State doesn't have to play the Seminoles until the end of the season, which is good news for a defense that must be rebuilt. The offense, however, appears ready to pick up the slack. A veteran line will give junior quarterback Geoff Bender time to find his receivers, but who will they be? Therein lies the question.

Cornerback
Dewayne Washington

20

NORTH CAROLINA



What does Dean Smith think about such a low ranking? Oops, wrong yearbook. The football Tar Heels went 9-3 last year—and nobody noticed. That could happen again unless the Tar Heels win the right nine games. That means not losing early to Southern Cal, Florida State and N.C. State. With tailback Natrone Means gone, sophomore quarterback Mike Thomas takes over the offense. Coach Mack Brown has brought Thomas along slowly, but he was terrific in a 31-28 victory over Duke in the regular-season finale. The Tar Heels will go as far as a young defense takes them.

Defensive tackle
Austin Robbins

21

OHIO STATE



Would going undefeated be enough to get people off John Cooper's back? What would it take, a Rose Bowl berth? A Rose Bowl win? What Cooper needs most is some offense. The line will provide time for a green backfield, particularly Raymont Harris, who will try to make people forget Robert Smith (as if Cooper needed any help). Bob Hoying is the new quarterback. Defense will keep the Buckeyes in the Big Ten race, and the schedule helps: Washington and Penn State both come to Columbus. Offense will determine whether Cooper becomes talk-show fodder again.

Offensive tackle
Alan Kline

22

OKLAHOMA



In the golden anniversary year of "Oklahoma!", the stage show produced by Coach Gary Gibbs might be titled "Oklahoma?" He willingly endured last year, when a probation-induced lack of seniors forced him to play kids. The benefits should be reaped now, as 17 starters return. New offensive coordinator Watson Brown likes to run, but the Sooners' strengths are quarterback Cale Gundy and the receivers. The defense is experienced but young, and playing Texas A&M early won't help. If Gibbs gets this show to the Orange Bowl, he'll earn a Tony.

Flanker
Corey Warren

23

CLEMSON



Neither Coach Ken Hatfield and his staff nor the patrons at the Esso Club, a gas station/bar near Memorial Stadium, are used to losing seasons. The Tigers won't go 5-6 again, despite the loss of some key players and coaches. Clemson could run last year, and Hatfield, stunned by the discovery that the forward pass is legal, may even use it in the offense. Sophomore quarterback Patrick Sapp has the arm to make split end Terry Smith a hero. And with a young secondary, the Tigers had better score. Seven home games, including five in the ACC, should help.

Split end
Terry Smith

24

MISSISSIPPI STATE



Is there really just a thin line between success and failure? It was pretty fat on fourth and long last season at Mississippi State, where Todd Jordan had so many punts blocked he ran backward to play defense after letting loose. Well, maybe not, but special teams turned a 10-win season into 7-5. It may be tough for the Bulldogs to win even seven games in 1993. The biggest need is at wide receiver, where quarterback Greg Plump has no experienced hands to chase down his inaccurate passes. If tailback Michael Davis gets the ball, he'll get yards. If Jordan gets the ball, watch out.

Quarterback
Greg Plump

25

BOSTON COLLEGE



OK, Eagles. You can come out now. Those big, bad people have gone home. Fueled by a 7-0-1 start and a delirious public, Boston College strutted into Notre Dame last fall and got embarrassed. Syracuse and Tennessee were only slightly nicer later on. And what lessons did the Eagles learn? We'll find out when an inexperienced Miami (Fla.) team comes to Alumni Stadium on Labor Day weekend. Glenn Foley is a tough quarterback, but unfortunately, Boston College plays five teams that won a total of 11 games. That's unfortunate? It is when respect is in question.

Quarterback
Glenn Foley

ARIZONA STATE

The Sun Devils have the Pac-10's best young backfield talent—if tailback Mario Bates recovers from knee surgery.

BAYLOR

New Coach Chuck Reedy will show his strength with a veteran offense. But if you can play defense, step forward. There's little experience.

FRESNO STATE

After WAC co-champ debut and Freedom Bowl rout of USC, the Bulldogs will sneak up on no one. You'll like quarterback Trent Diler.

GEORGIA TECH

Lots of potential. Sophomore quarterback Donnie Davis takes over for Shawn Jones. Someone better take over for DT Coleman Rudolph.



Kansas' Dan Eichloff

HAWAII

Michael Carter is the best quarterback you've never heard of, but the Rainbow Warriors play at BYU and Fresno State. Yikes.

KANSAS

Lawrence isn't just a basketball town anymore. Interior lines and punter/place-kicker Dan Eichloff stand out for the Jayhawks.

MISSISSIPPI

Like last year, the Rebels mount a good defense. They must. The offense is so young, it needs a note from home to go on the road.

SAN DIEGO STATE

The Aztecs have Marshall Faulk, Darnay Scott and David Lowery, which is good. But none of the three plays defense, which is bad.

TEXAS

The Longhorns are a year away—provided QB-of-the-future Shea Morenz doesn't break his ankle again falling down a staircase.

WISCONSIN

The Badgers have a veteran defense and a favorable schedule (no Iowa or Penn State). Any offense at all results in a bowl.

HEISMAN TROPHY

(Top player)

1. Marshall Faulk, RB, San Diego State.
2. Charlie Ward, QB, Florida State.
3. Tyrone Wheatley, TB, Michigan.
4. Calvin Jones, RB, Nebraska.
5. Tamarick Vanover, WR/KR, Florida State.
6. Michael Westbrook, WR, Colorado.
7. Marvin Graves, QB, Syracuse.
8. Eric Zeier, QB, Georgia.
9. Rob Waldrop, NG, Arizona.
10. Antonio Langham, CB, Alabama.

OUTLAND TROPHY

(Top interior lineman)

1. Rob Waldrop, NG, Arizona.
2. Jim Pyne, C, Virginia Tech.
3. Kevin Mitchell, NG, Syracuse.
4. Mark Dixon, OG, Virginia.
5. Aaron Taylor, OT, Notre Dame.
6. Tony Boselli, OT, Southern California.
7. Reggie Green, OT, Florida.
8. Lou Benfatti, DT, Penn State.
9. Korey Stringer, OT, Ohio State.
10. Mike Bedosky, OG, Missouri.

LOMBARDI AWARD

(Top lineman/linebacker)

1. Derrick Brooks, LB, Florida State.
2. Rob Waldrop, NG, Arizona.
3. Jim Pyne, C, Virginia Tech.
4. Keith Burns, LB, Oklahoma State.
5. Ron Woolfork, LB, Colorado.
6. Shante Carver, DE, Arizona State.
7. Kevin Mitchell, NG, Syracuse.
8. Aaron Taylor, OT, Notre Dame.
9. Matt Dyson, LB, Michigan.
10. Willie McGinest, DE, Southern California.



San Diego State's Marshall Faulk

DOAK WALKER AWARD

(Top junior/senior running back)

1. Marshall Faulk, San Diego State.
2. Tyrone Wheatley, Michigan.
3. Calvin Jones, Nebraska.
4. Napoleon Kaufman, Washington.
5. Rodney Thomas, Texas A&M.
6. Errict Rhett, Florida.
7. Charlie Garner, Tennessee.
8. Byron Morris, Texas Tech.
9. Craig Thomas, Michigan State.
10. James Bostic, Auburn.

DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD

(Top quarterback)

1. Charlie Ward, Florida State.
2. Marvin Graves, Syracuse.
3. Eric Zeier, Georgia.
4. Heath Shuler, Tennessee.
5. Trent Diler, Fresno State.
6. Bert Emanuel, Rice.
7. Steve Stenstrom, Stanford.
8. Tommie Frazier, Nebraska.
9. Todd Collins, Michigan.
10. Kordell Stewart, Colorado.

BUTKUS AWARD

(Top linebacker)

1. Derrick Brooks, Florida State.
2. Keith Burns, Oklahoma State.
3. Ron Woolfork, Colorado.
4. Matt Dyson, Michigan.
5. Dana Howard, Illinois.
6. Dwayne Dotson, Mississippi.
7. Trev Alberts, Nebraska.
8. Lemanski Hall, Alabama.
9. Sean Harris, Arizona.
10. Dan Conley, Syracuse.

THORPE AWARD

(Top defensive back)

1. Antonio Langham, CB, Alabama.
2. Aaron Glenn, CB, Texas A&M.
3. Corey Sawyer, CB, Florida State.
4. Johnny Dixon, SS, Mississippi.
5. Tyrone Drakeford, CB, Virginia Tech.
6. Bobby Taylor, FS, Notre Dame.
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DEPT SNA93

SCOUTING THE NATION

No. 1 team might be first-timer (Seminoles); contenders include long-ago national titlists



Ivan
Maisel

The Florida State athletic department is carefully monitoring the press corps, ready to award a prize to the 1-millionth reporter who asks Coach Bobby Bowden about the chances of winning his first national championship.

The Seminoles, the Alydar of the campus set, are favored again. If everything goes according to plan, they once more will blow through the Atlantic Coast Conference schedule and also withstand non-conference challenges from Kansas, Miami (Fla.), Notre Dame and Florida.

Of course, if everything went according to plan, the federal budget would be balanced by now. Regardless, there's every reason to believe that 1993 will produce a surprise national champion—a program that hasn't

been No. 1 for quite a while, if ever. Florida State falls nicely into that category.

Whether the Seminoles succeed or fail, the usual contenders for the polls' top spot have plenty of question marks. Alabama must find a defensive line or else undefeated quarterback Jay Barker will have to produce more than he has to date. The Crimson Tide has the schedule to win the national championship again, though.

Miami (Fla.), Washington and Notre Dame are young. Colorado's defense is young, too; besides, the Buffaloes might not survive September. Penn State has to learn to play in a league. Georgia Tech and Oklahoma each won five games last year. Brigham Young? Nope.

These names weren't pulled out of the air. Other than Florida State, they all have won somebody's national title in the last 10 seasons. In other words, look for a new champion in '93—or at least a relatively new one.

In 1939, when "Gone With the Wind" first appeared in U.S. movie theaters, Texas A&M won its only national title. Michigan last finished No. 1 in 1948, so long ago that Joe Paterno was rolling up his pants cuffs on the way to class at Brown. Tennessee won its only championship in 1951, a year better known for Bobby Thomson's Shot Heard 'Round the World. Syracuse? The Orangemen

ruled in 1959. Name one thing that happened in '59. When Nebraska last finished No. 1, in 1971, there was a big to-do about the publication of the classified Pentagon papers in the New York Times.

So, it has been a while since any of these five teams—Texas A&M, Michigan, Tennessee, Syracuse and Nebraska—wound up as the national champion. All are rated highly in THE SPORTING NEWS' Top 25 for '93.

As they say on the first tee of the U.S. Open, "Play away, please."

BOWLS' LUSTER IS SULLIED

The bowl coalition was promoted as a tool to assemble the best postseason matchups possible. Last year, it delivered Miami-Alabama—and some loud complaints were heard. With the mission of ridding the postseason picture of chaos and possibly determining the national champion in the process, the coalition frankly did too good of a job in '92. By all accounts, outside the USF&G Sugar Bowl showdown between the Hurricanes and the Crimson Tide, the bowls lost some luster.

"There is something needed for college football," former Miami athletic director Dave Maggard said. "There needs to be some kind



While Texas A&M hasn't won the national championship since 1939, defenders Lance Teichelman (left) and Jason Atkinson boost Aggie chances for 1993. Among other hopefuls are Michigan, which hasn't ruled the roost at season's end since 1948, and Tennessee, whose Volunteers won their only crown in 1951.

of shot in the arm there. Everybody needs to be thinking about that."

Some good reasons exist. The Rose Bowl played host to Michigan and Washington for the second consecutive year, a big reason why tickets were not at a premium. Plus, the Huskies were making their third straight appearance in Pasadena, Calif. The Alabama-Miami game clearly stole attention from everyone else.

Say what you will about the back-room dealing that used to characterize the bowls. The old system at least allowed every bowl to promote itself as having the "best game possible." That's harder to do when you're matching the fourth team from conference "A" against the third team from league "B."

To try to counter that, the coalition dumped the "tier two" designation this year for the bowls that select after the Orange, Sugar, Cotton and Fiesta.

"If the bowls don't come back in the next couple of years," Maggard said, "people will push for a playoff."

SIGNS OF LIFE IN THE SWC

Preseason favorite for Comeback of the Year? The Southwest Conference, which will edge out Danny Ford and his new regime at Arkansas for the honor.

That's as in the Once-Powerful SWC, the We Don't Cheat (Much) Anymore SWC and the We Hope to Score a Touchdown in the Cotton Bowl Soon SWC.

The last decade has been hard on the conference, beginning with constant NCAA investigations and ending with the monthly rumors of impending defections by Texas and Texas A&M. However, signs of life are beginning to emerge.

New Commissioner Steve Hatchell, the former executive director of the Federal Express Orange Bowl, attracts attention within the NCAA community. He brought instant credibility to the league.

Hatchell also shook up a moribund league office. In his first meeting with athletic direc-

tors, he told them he planned to replace the supervisor of officials.

Hatchell received a five-year commitment from Texas and Texas A&M that they wouldn't bolt the SWC for the Big Ten, the Pacific-10, the SEC or the NBA Atlantic.

On the field, there's hope. It would be easy to mock the conference for having only seven players selected last spring in the National Football League draft. However, these seniors entered school when SWC-bashing was at a peak. Southern Methodist didn't have a team. Schools competed in tag-team probation.

More important, Rice had its first winning season in three decades. SMU rebounded from the death penalty to go 5-6. History says Texas, 6-5 in 1992, will have a good year in John Mackovic's second season at the helm. In 1979, his second year as coach at Wake Forest, Mackovic went 8-4. In his second year at Illinois, 1989, he went 10-2.



Danny Ford figures to compete for comeback honors in his role as new coach at Arkansas.

IT'S THE BIG WEST —WELL, SORT OF

Over the last few years, realignment conjecture has centered upon the Big Ten, the Pacific-10 and the possible dissolution of the Southwest Conference. Around rolls 1993 and the biggest changes are in, well, would you believe the Big West?

Arkansas State, Louisiana Tech, Northern Illinois and Southwestern Louisiana have joined with the six surviving football members of the Big West for scheduling reasons. These universities have spent too much time on the road over the years chasing a big paycheck from big schools.

With a 10-team league, everyone has home games. Maybe rivalries will develop. In the meantime, pause for everyone to get a geographic clue. Pause for a new name. The Big Westsouthmidwest?

GAMES OF THE YEAR

September 11: Notre Dame at Michigan. The Wolverines moved their Washington State game to September 4 as a warm-up.

September 25: Miami (Fla.) at Colorado. Synagogues across Dade County will be interrupted by cheers from ear-plugged Hurricane fans. It's Yom Kippur.

October 1: Fresno State at Brigham Young. How did Trent Dilfer get away from the Cougars? The Western Athletic Conference's—and maybe the nation's—best passer visits Provo, Utah.

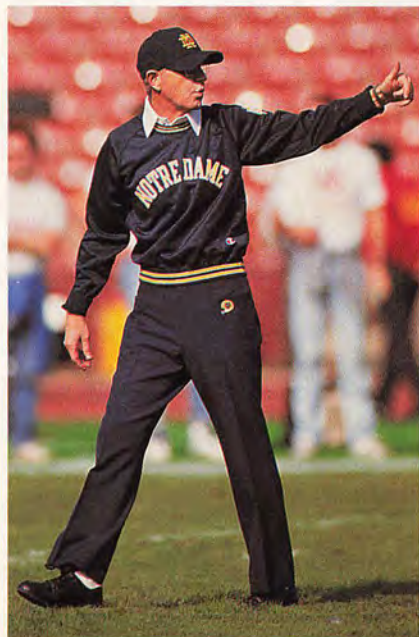
October 2: Notre Dame at Stanford. Give Bill Walsh a 16-0 lead at home and see if he blows it. The Fighting Irish are 0-2 vs. the Cardinal at home, 2-0 at Stanford Stadium.

October 9: Miami (Fla.) at Florida State. It's the Seminoles' turn, unless the young Hurricanes grow up in the first month of the season.

October 16: Michigan at Penn State. Sorry, Ohio State. This year, the Nittany Lions are the Wolverines' biggest league rivals.

Continued

SCOUTING THE NATION



Notre Dame Coach Lou Holtz (left) is sure to offer lively game-week observations before his Fighting Irish play Florida State in mid-November in one of the 1993 season's big games. Six weeks earlier, in another key matchup of the year, passing wizard Trent Dilfer and Fresno State will take on Brigham Young.



October 16: Tennessee at Alabama. The Crimson Tide has won seven straight from the Volunteers. On a soft schedule, this will be Alabama's first real test.

October 23: Syracuse at Miami (Fla.). The Orangemen look for revenge—and the Big East title—after last year's close call.

October 23: Southern California at Notre Dame. John Robinson was the last Trojan coach to beat the Irish (1982).

October 30: Nebraska at Colorado. Let's make it official. This is the Big Eight's marquee game. Can the Buffaloes save face after their 52-7 loss to the Cornhuskers in '92?

November 13: Florida State at Notre Dame. Forget the game. We can't wait to listen to Lou Holtz and Bobby Bowden during game week.

November 26: Oklahoma at Nebraska. The Sooners' grumbling alumni want Coach Gary Gibbs to put up Barry Switzer-type numbers. Now.

November 27: Florida State at Florida. Steve Spurrier's Gators will never win the Southeastern Conference championship game as long as they play the Seminoles the week before the SEC's showcase event.

SACRIFICIAL LAMBS

September 4: Cal State Northridge at San Diego State. Marshall Faulk does so much damage that the Matadors ask for martial law.

September 11: Samford (Ala.) at Auburn.

Any odds on which bench Terry Bowden goes to?

September 18: William & Mary at Tulane. This is not the opponent to revive fan interest in Green Wave football. Who scheduled this one, anyway?

October 2: Georgia Southern at Miami



Among players expected to emerge big time this season is Georgia Tech's Donnie Davis.

(Fla.). Shame on you, Hurricanes. At least Florida A&M could be defended because you sell out the Orange Bowl.

October 23: East Tennessee State at Clemson. Does Tigers Athletic Director Bobby Robinson still think he's in the Southern Conference?

November 6: New Mexico State at Auburn. The games you have to sit through to get an Alabama ticket.

THINGS YOU'LL MISS FROM '92

1. Rick Mirer. Notre Dame's golden boy probably will lose more games in Seattle this fall than he did in three seasons starting for the Irish.

2. The tandem of John Copeland and Eric Curry. If you like to watch nature specials in which the strong devour the weak, Alabama's bookend defensive ends might be available on video.

3. Ruthless Posse. The Miami (Fla.) receivers have taken their brashness into NFL training camps. Will anyone listen?

4. Wake Forest and Rice with winning records, Clemson and Iowa without. Go figure. Hey, a Democrat's in the White House. How long did that take?

5. Fumblerooski. The fans loved it. Defensive coaches hated it. But if the rules committee listened to the fans, Notre Dame would play three times a week.

THINGS YOU WON'T MISS FROM '92

1. Billy Joe Hobert. The Washington quarterback borrowed \$50,000 and spent it on cars and parties. Now there's a shock.
2. Wide right. Florida State freshman Scott Bentley has the leg to end the Seminoles' kicking-game miseries.
3. Ruthless Posse. Let's face it. Brashness doesn't travel well. A new act was needed.
4. Wrestling with Lou Holtz. In the last bout, head linesman Hulk Hogan put Lou in a headlock. Holtz offered him a scholarship as an offensive lineman.
5. Coalition follies. Let's see if the Mobil Cotton Bowl uses the no-repeat rule—applied last year to Florida State—on Notre Dame.

READY FOR PRIME TIME

Players who will step from the shadows into the spotlight:

1. Donnie Davis, Georgia Tech. The nation's high school sensation three years ago, he gets his shot. He can run and throw like quarterback predecessor Shawn Jones.
2. Anthony Harris, Auburn. This linebacker came off the bench most of last season and finished fifth in tackles.
3. Damon Huard, Washington. He comes from Billy Joe Hobert's high school (in Puyallup, Wash.). This quarterback has an outstanding arm, no outstanding loans.

4. Oscar McBride, Notre Dame. Tight end McBride caught five passes last year—four for touchdowns. He's a budding first-round draft choice.

5. Marquette Smith, Florida State. After a redshirt season, the rolling fire hydrant—he's 5-foot-7, 195 pounds—will give starter Sean Jackson plenty of rest at tailback.

MUST-SEE STADIUMS

1. Army. Walk along the Hudson, see the game-morning parade. Sit in Michie Stadium with a backdrop of autumn leaves. Beautiful.
2. Oregon. Autzen Stadium sits in a picturesque grove of evergreens. It's intimate and probably wet. Dress appropriately.
3. Notre Dame. Wake up the echoes. See Touchdown Jesus. Sit close to your neighbor. (Too close.) It's not a game, it's a pilgrimage.
4. California. Memorial Stadium sits in Strawberry Canyon. Tightwad Hill looms above. Sit near the top and gaze at San Francisco Bay.
5. Clemson. Orange faces. Orange dresses. Orange cups. A lot of smiles. And tailgate fried chicken at its best.

AWARD-WINNING BLOODLINES

1. Pittsburgh defensive back Anthony Dorsett (Tony, Pittsburgh, 1976 Heisman Trophy winner).
2. Oklahoma split end Mike Owens (Steve,

Oklahoma, 1969 Heisman winner).

3. Duke wide receiver Steve Spurrier Jr. (Steve, Florida, 1966 Heisman winner).

4. Stanford defensive end Nate Olsen (Merlin, Utah State, 1961 Outland Trophy winner).

5. Southern Cal center Matt Butkus (Dick, Illinois, 1963-64 All-America, player for whom the national linebacker award is named).

ROYAL BLOODLINE

Kirk Presley, quarterback, Mississippi State. (A third cousin.)

FAMOUS SIBLINGS

1. Wisconsin linebacker Nick Rafko (Kaye Lani Rae Rafko was Miss America, 1988).
2. Brigham Young quarterback Tom Young (Steve was the 1992 Most Valuable Player in the NFL).
3. Clemson fullback Emory Smith (Emmitt led the NFL in rushing, 1991-92).
4. East Carolina quarterback Michael Anderson (Willie plays for the National Basketball Association's San Antonio Spurs).

REMEMBER THEM?

Top players who missed most or all of the 1992 season but are back for '93:

1. Mario Bates, running back, Arizona State (injury).

Continued

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2. Beno Bryant, tailback, Washington (injury).
3. Bryan Rowley, wide receiver, Utah (injury).

jury).

4. Ralph Thompson, defensive back, Georgia (suspension).

5. Tom Tumulty, linebacker, Pittsburgh (injury).

TOUGHEST SCHEDULES

1. Colorado (non-conference: Texas, Baylor, Stanford, Miami, Fla.).
2. Notre Dame (Michigan, Stanford, Brigham Young, Southern Cal, Florida State).
3. Florida State (Miami, Notre Dame, North Carolina State, Florida).
4. Oregon (six of the Ducks' first nine games are on the road).

5. Texas Tech (Nebraska, Georgia, Baylor, Texas A&M, N.C. State—on consecutive weeks).

EASIEST SCHEDULES

1. Alabama (none of the Crimson Tide's first five opponents had a winning record in 1992).
2. Boston College (air sandwich: Between Miami, Fla., and Notre Dame, five of eight opponents won a total of 11 games in '92).
3. Clemson (seven home games, five vs. ACC teams).
4. Auburn (seven home games).
5. Wyoming (four bowl opponents, three at home; no Brigham Young; the Cowboys open against Oregon State and Northern Iowa).

FAVORED RULES CHANGES

1. Eliminate the point-after conversion kick. Give the offense one point for crossing the goal line from the 3-yard line and two points for scoring from the 8.
2. Lengthen the end zone to 15 yards. The offense trades tougher field goals for room to maneuver. Removing the tee and narrowing the goal posts haven't fazed the kickers. The 1992 accuracy rate (65 percent) for field-goal attempts was about the same as 1989 (67 percent), the last season with the tee and wider goal posts.
3. Pay the players—and sell them. Give the players some pocket money. It just might curb the temptation to listen to those agents. And open the locker rooms and let the media sell the kids to the public. The players themselves are the best advertisement there is for college sports.

TOP RIVALRIES, 1993

1. Florida State vs. Miami. Boyhood rivals grow up to play for national supremacy. Only in America—actually, only in Florida.
2. Alabama vs. Auburn. This clash still means more than any game short of the Super Bowl.
3. Michigan vs. Notre Dame. It would be a tussle for the national title if the two juggernauts didn't play in mid-September.
4. Nebraska vs. Colorado. Boo-hoo, Oklahoma. This is the real Big Eight title game.
5. Army vs. Navy. Catch them before the defense cuts reduce the academies to flag football.

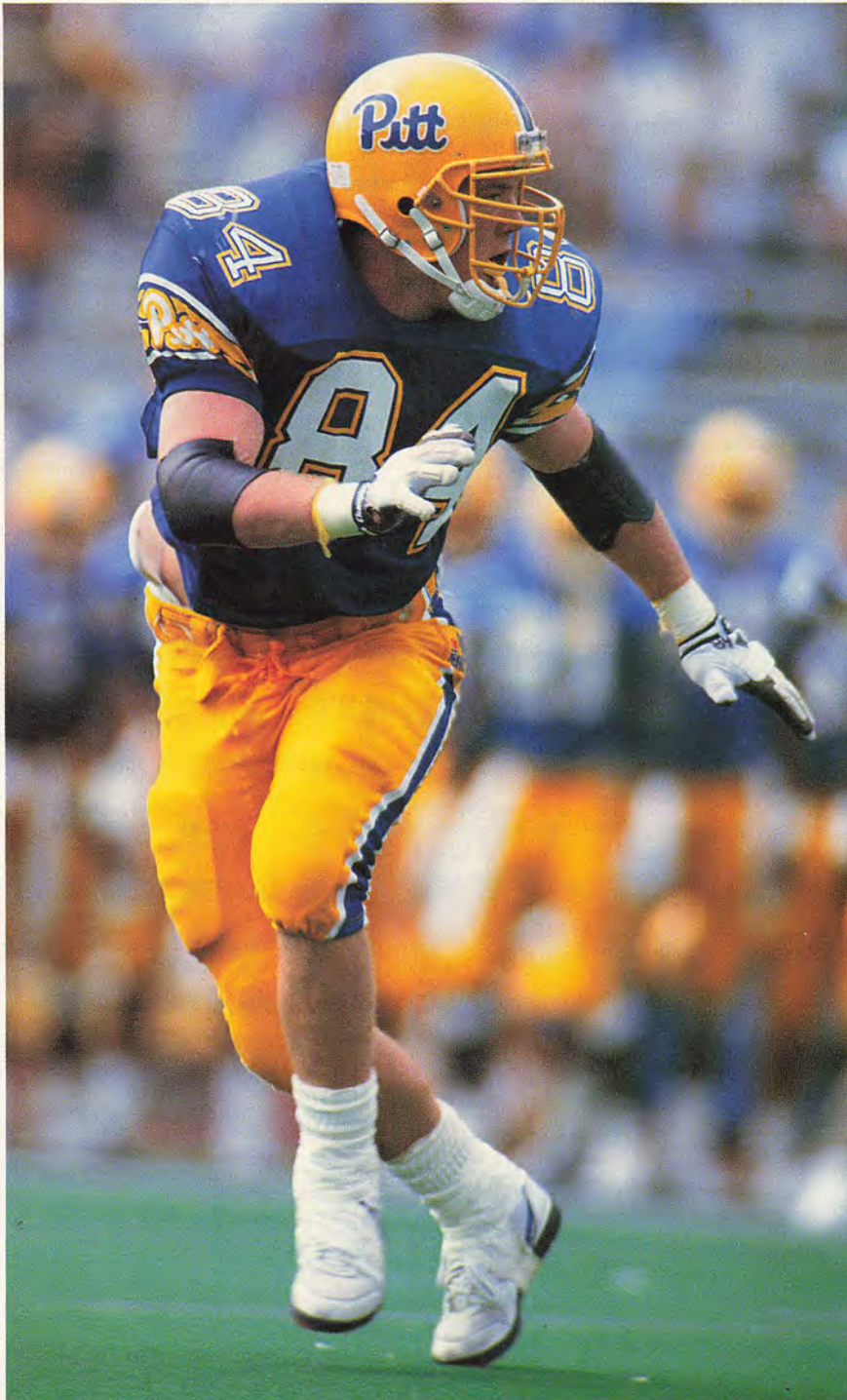
TOP RIVALRIES, 1983

1. Michigan vs. Ohio State.
2. Georgia vs. Clemson.
3. Alabama vs. Auburn.
4. Florida vs. Georgia.
5. Pittsburgh vs. Penn State.

TOP RIVALRIES, 1973

1. Michigan vs. Ohio State.
2. Alabama vs. Auburn.
3. Southern Cal vs. Notre Dame.
4. Southern Cal vs. UCLA.
5. Texas vs. Oklahoma. ■

Ivan Maisel of the Dallas Morning News writes a weekly college football column for THE SPORTING NEWS.



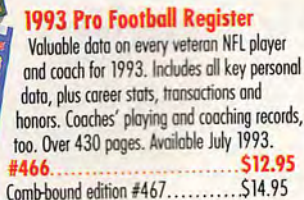
One player who is certain to cause considerable tumult to opposing offenses in '93 is Pittsburgh linebacker Tom Tumulty, a gifted player who was sidelined last year because of a torn chest muscle.

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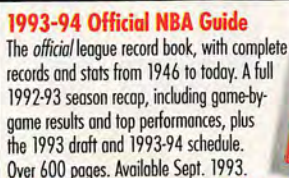
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By **DON BORST**

Tacoma News Tribune

When Washington senior tailback Beno Bryant pulled a hamstring before the 1992 season began, he cheerfully declared that his "little brother," sophomore Napoleon Kaufman, would handle the position just fine until he returned.

Bryant and Kaufman, after all, seemed like lifelong friends after spending the 1991 season together with the Huskies. That year, Bryant led Washington with 943 yards rushing and Kaufman showed flashes of brilliance as a true freshman. The two backs reveled in watching each other break off long runs as the Huskies rolled to a 12-0 season and a share of the national championship.

However, when Bryant's injury proved worse than expected and Kaufman proved to be better than expected, Beno's signature smile gradually faded. "Nip will never let me get my job back," Bryant said after Kaufman rushed for 159 yards on just six carries in Washington's 31-7 season-opening victory over Arizona State. Kaufman exploded for a 63-yard touchdown run and a 70-yard gain on his first two carries.

With the Huskies' other tailback, Jay Barry, slowed by a broken toe, the No. 1 job was there for the taking last year. Kaufman took it and solidified his hold for 1993 by rushing for 1,045 yards, a school-record 6.5 yards per carry and six touchdowns.

"The man showed what he can do," said Bryant, who carried the ball only 19 times before being granted injury-hardship status, giving him another year of eligibility.

Kaufman is no longer "little brother" in the Husky backfield. He's now the man.

"I didn't even think about starting," Kaufman insisted. "It didn't matter to me. I was the young guy. I wanted to play, but I could wait my turn."

It is now Bryant's turn to wait. He has changed his uniform number from 29 to 11 ("as part of my fresh start," he said), but he'll open the '93 season as the Huskies' No. 2 tailback.

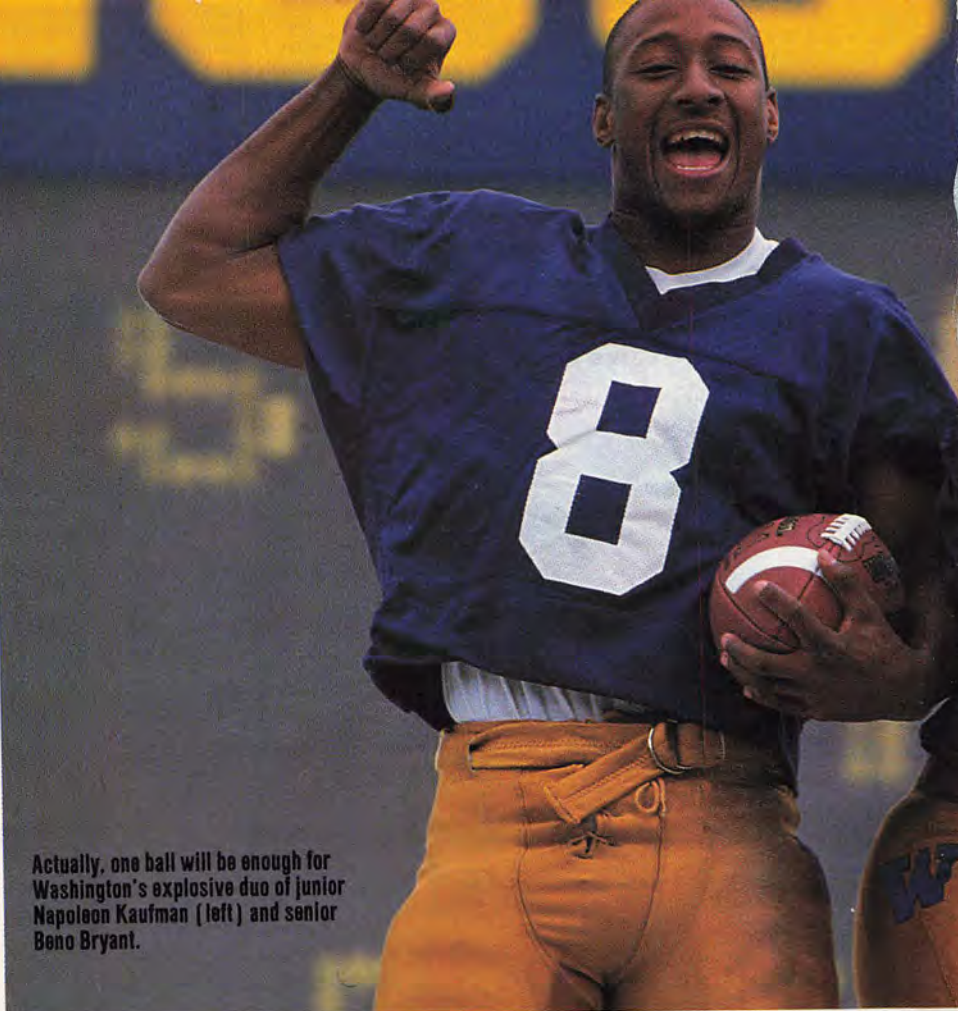
"He still won't give me my job back... that's OK," said Bryant, who averaged 6.0 yards per carry in 1991. "I just want to do the best I can with my second chance for a senior season."

Indirectly, Kaufman's 1992 success gave Bryant his second chance. Because of the huge numbers Kaufman kept amassing each week, Bryant kept trying even harder to work his way back into the lineup. He wound up aggravating his hamstring and prolonging the healing process.

"Ever since Nip got here (1991), all we've talked about is playing together," Bryant said. "We had one play together last year—one play. I blocked. And I wasn't healthy then."

Bryant's injury-hardship status enabled him to count last year as the redshirt season he had never used.

"That," Washington running-backs coach



Actually, one ball will be enough for Washington's explosive duo of junior Napoleon Kaufman (left) and senior Beno Bryant.

LEAD D

Huskies' tailback tandem puts

Al Lavan said, "was like getting a top draft pick."

Both players were considered high draft material when they were being recruited in high school.

Bryant, a Los Angeles native and the fastest player in the California high school ranks in 1989, chose Washington over Southern California because the Trojans wanted him as a wide receiver, not as a running back. Bryant showed Southern Cal the error of its ways by rushing for 158 yards and two touchdowns in the Huskies' 14-3 victory over the Trojans in 1991.

Kaufman, a Kansas City, Mo., native who attended high school in Lompoc, Calif., was California's fastest player in 1991. He was one of three high school players that year (Florida State's Marquette Smith and Notre Dame's Mike Miller were the others) who were touted as "the next Rocket Ismail" by recruiting publications.

With his rushing and kick-return abilities, Kaufman is as close to having Rocket-like impact as any player in college football. And he thinks he'll be even more productive in 1993 with Bryant back for the entire season.

"Having Beno back is good for my game," Kaufman said. "I'm not a big guy (5-foot-9, 170 pounds) and after a while I started to feel some of that pounding. I found myself getting beat up by the end of the year, but I had to stay in games because Jay had the broken toe and Beno was out with the hamstring. Now, when I need a little relief, it's there."

Washington Coach Don James says there may be times this year when both players are in the game. However, he also likes the idea of spelling each of them to keep both players fresh. The Huskies have an explosive group of receivers (Joe Kralik, Jason Shelley and Theron Hill), so there might not be a need to put Bryant or Kaufman on the



OGS

bite on grid foes

field as an H-back receiver.

"When it gets down to crunch time, I think the coaches will want us both out there to get as much speed on the field as possible," Kaufman said.

James points out that either player works well in single-back alignments, but having both in the backfield at the same time would mean that, on running plays, one would have to block for the other. "And they're not very big," James said. Bryant is 5-11, 178 pounds. The Huskies' best blocker, Matt Jones, is a 6-2, 215-pound senior and one of the Pacific-10 Conference's most complete fullbacks.

"We'll take a look at a lot of different things," offensive coordinator Jeff Woodruff said. "I just know we're going to need both of them."

With the pounding tailbacks traditionally take in the Pac-10, Bryant will get ample playing time even as a backup. Last season,

Kaufman carried the ball 162 times but eight other running backs combined for 223 carries. With a veteran offensive line and an inexperienced quarterback, the Huskies are expected to run the ball even more in '93.

"We're looking for the national rushing title," Kaufman said.

Last season, Washington had a balanced offense of 194.5 yards rushing and 193.2 yards passing per game. It led the Pac-10 in both rushing touchdowns (26) and yards per carry (4.5). Over the last decade, the Huskies have used a succession of durable, workmanlike tailbacks (Greg Lewis, Vince Weathersby, Jacques Robinson) and hoped they could break the big play. Now, their *backup* tailback, Bryant, has 4.3 speed, 3,146 career all-purpose yards and 18 touchdowns.

So far, neither Kaufman nor Bryant has received much national acclaim. Even in Seattle, they have not been featured players. Two years ago, defensive tackle Steve Emtman received All-America acclaim and sophomore Billy Joe Hobert was the glamour-boy quarterback in the Huskies' undefeated season. Last year, the spotlight was on the Hobert/Mark Brunell quarterback controversy, which ended abruptly when Hobert was declared ineligible after knowledge of an unsecured loan he had received became public. As that apparent NCAA transgression led to a full-scale investigation, the Huskies stumbled and lost three of their last four games, including the Rose Bowl.

In those three defeats, Kaufman never found the open spaces that make him so dangerous. He averaged 46 yards in games against Arizona, Washington State and Michigan after averaging 100 in Washington's first eight contests. The late-season slump probably was a big reason why Kauf-

man's feat of becoming the first sophomore in school history to rush for 1,000 yards was widely overlooked.

If Kaufman and Bryant stay healthy and the Huskies are effective in their ball-control offense, the two running backs could duplicate the accomplishment of Nebraska's Calvin Jones and Derek Brown, each of whom rushed for more than 1,000 yards last season.

"We're as good as those guys," Kaufman said. "You just don't hear as much about us."

Two 1,000-yard rushers is not inconceivable in Washington's offense. Two years ago, when Bryant rushed for 943 yards, Barry gained 718. But before Bryant and Kaufman get carried away with setting goals and breaking records, they must realize they've been through this before.

"We talked about all these same things last year," said Lavan, emphasizing that the most important thing is for both players to be healthy. Bryant is expected to be at full speed for the first time in 21 months when the Huskies play Stanford in their season opener on September 4.

In addition to their backfield duties, both players are scheduled to return kickoffs and probably will share the punt-return chores as well. Kaufman ranked second in the league in punt returns last season with a 14.2-yard average. Bryant led the Pac-10 with a 15.6-yard average in 1990, when he tied a league record with three punt-return touchdowns.

"This is not a one-man job," Kaufman said of the tailback position. "Nobody really holds the spot. We've both shared it with Jay the last two years, and now we'll share it with each other."

"One ball will be enough," Bryant added, with a grin. ■

R U N N I N G B A C K S

Rk.	HALFBACKS/TAILBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Marshall Faulk.....	5-10/200	Jr.	San Diego State	If healthy, he may shatter every record.
2.	Tyrone Wheatley	6-1/225	Jr.	Michigan	Devastating combo of size and speed.
3.	Calvin Jones	5-11/210	Jr.	Nebraska	Best 'Husker back since Roger Craig.
4.	Napoleon Kaufman	5-9/170	Jr.	Washington	Super-quick darter can frustrate foes.
5.	Greg Hill	5-11/206	Jr.	Texas A&M	Conquers foes with speed, strength.
6.	Mario Bates.....	6-2/206	Soph.	Arizona State	Blazing '92 start ended by knee injury.
7.	Rodney Thomas.....	5-11/203	Jr.	Texas A&M	Some SWC scouts prefer him to Hill.
8.	Errict Rhett	6-0/212	Sr.	Florida	Best all-around talent on this list.
9.	James Bostic	6-0/224	Jr.	Auburn	Big back improved each game in '92.
10.	Charlie Garner	5-10/187	Sr.	Tennessee	Went unnoticed in talent-rich SEC.
11.	Ron Rivers.....	5-9/190	Sr.	Fresno State	Inside runner can motor in open field.
12.	Beno Bryant	5-11/178	Sr.	Washington	Looks to rebound from '92 knee injury.
13.	Jesse Johnson	5-9/209	Sr.	Michigan	Could start for many schools.
14.	Rodney Blunt	5-10/200	Sr.	Clemson	Tigers' revival will revolve around him.
15.	Brandon Bennett.....	6-0/205	Jr.	South Carolina	Hard runner excelled in second half.
16.	Bruce Presley.....	5-10/215	Soph.	Rutgers	Hard-hitter has foes "all shook up."
17.	Byron Morris.....	6-1/235	Jr.	Texas Tech	Tackle-to-tackle runner hurts foes.
18.	Mark Mason.....	5-8/191	Sr.	Maryland	Plays bigger than his size.
19.	Craig Thomas.....	6-0/205	Sr.	Michigan State	Benefits from Spartans' system.
20.	Anthony Daigle.....	5-11/195	Sr.	Fresno State	Second half of Bulldogs' 1-2 punch.
Rk.	FULLBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	William Floyd.....	6-0/238	Jr.	Florida State	Hard blocker, runner devoid of ego.
2.	Rob DeBoer	5-10/205	Sr.	South Carolina	Conjures images of Larry Csonka.
3.	Lamar Smith	5-11/222	Sr.	Houston	Dedicated blocker who also can run.
4.	Kalin Hall.....	5-8/195	Sr.	Brigham Young	Most vital Cougar ballcarrier.
5.	Robert Strait	6-1/260	Sr.	Baylor	Has talent, needs right attitude.
6.	Jeff Cothran	6-2/231	Sr.	Ohio State	Prototype FB who sacrifices his body.
7.	Brian O'Neal.....	6-1/227	Sr.	Penn State	Lions plan to use him more in '93.
8.	Billy Johnson	5-10/197	Sr.	Arizona	Hard runner with a smidgen of speed.
9.	William Bell.....	5-11/203	Sr.	Georgia Tech	Combines size with TB quickness.
10.	Chris Ulrich.....	5-10/208	Sr.	Iowa State	Former walk-on does whatever it takes.

Key departures haven't fazed Georgia's Zeier

By **CHIP TOWERS**

Athens Daily News

For some people, the mere mention of Georgia quarterback Eric Zeier as a Heisman Trophy candidate in 1993 elicits a roll of the eyes. Many of those same eyes were rolling early last season, too, when Bulldogs running back Garrison Hearst was mentioned for the same award. And all Hearst ended up with was a reserved seat in the front of the Heisman Room at the Downtown Athletic Club of New York last December.

There's no doubt that any success Georgia enjoys this season falls squarely on the broad shoulders of the 6-foot-2, 200-pound Zeier. The other two-thirds of Georgia's heralded 1992 triple threat (Hearst and wide receiver Andre Hastings) is gone, as both players decided to skip their senior seasons to enter the National Football League draft. Hearst and Hastings combined for 56 percent of Georgia's total yardage and 44 percent of its scoring last year.

Zeier, however, tries to downplay the significance of the departures and the thinking that the Bulldogs' 1993 fortunes will mirror his own.

"If you look at our team and how it has been successful, it's been by taking what the defense gives us and using our personnel to the best of our ability," said Zeier, sounding more like an offensive coordinator than a quarterback. "Even last year, going into the season there was a lot of hype about how much we were going to throw the ball—'Air Georgia' and all that. Then, all of the sudden, Garrison started having a good year and people were talking about how much we were running the ball. We're going to take advantage of what the defense gives us. That's the way our offense works."

Georgia led the Southeastern Conference in total yardage with an average of 450.4 yards per game. Although Zeier set a school record for passing yardage (2,248), 49 percent of his 151 completions went to either Hearst or Hastings.

Yet, absent his offensive cohorts, Zeier remains confident, if not cocky. A year ago, he boldly predicted that the Bulldogs would go 13-0 and win the national championship. They finished 10-2, losing two games by a total of five points. Zeier's optimism hasn't changed.

"I still feel the same way; that's never going to change," he said. "That's the way I approach every season. If things fall in the right place, we could go 13-0 and win a national championship. You've got to be lucky and good." ■



Eric Zeier: Georgia's quarterback will have to carry the bulk of the team's offensive load.

QUARTERBACKS

Rk.	QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Charlie Ward	6-1/185	Sr.	Florida State	On 1-10 scale, he's an 11.
2.	Marvin Graves	6-1/196	Sr.	Syracuse	Could play any skill position.
3.	Eric Zeier	6-2/200	Jr.	Georgia	Already good; can he get better?
4.	Heath Shuler	6-3/212	Jr.	Tennessee	Being compared to Archie Manning.
5.	Trent Diller	6-5/225	Jr.	Fresno State	Pro size, good arm, knack for big plays.
6.	Steve Stenstrom	6-2/200	Jr.	Stanford	With Walsh, he's bordering on great.
7.	Todd Collins	6-5/240	Jr.	Michigan	Sorry, Wolverines, your secret is out.
8.	Kordell Stewart	6-3/210	Jr.	Colorado	Extremely efficient for his age.
9.	John Walsh	6-5/200	Soph.	Brigham Young	The BYU QB machine keeps producing.
10.	Glenn Foley	6-2/207	Sr.	Boston College	Awakening the echoes of Doug Flutie.
11.	Steve Taneyhill	6-5/205	Soph.	South Carolina	Big mouth matches big ability.
12.	Len Williams	6-0/215	Sr.	Northwestern	Talented thrower has an ornery side.
13.	Jimmy Klingler	6-4/210	Jr.	Houston	Cougars' latest slinger is deadly.
14.	Cale Gundy	6-0/193	Sr.	Oklahoma	The golden arm needs a big year.
15.	Jeff Handy	6-3/210	Jr.	Missouri	Huge impact in just six '92 starts.
16.	Grady Benton	6-2/185	Soph.	Arizona State	Deadly accurate as a freshman.
17.	Steve Matthews	6-4/215	Sr.	Memphis State	'92 numbers surprised everyone.
18.	Jake Kelchner	6-2/210	Sr.	West Virginia	If healthy, he can have an impact.
19.	David Lowery	6-0/200	Sr.	San Diego State	Striving for consistency.
20.	Rob Johnson	6-4/210	Jr.	Southern California	Hard worker has leadership skills.

NOTE: Koy Detmer of Colorado not listed due to redshirt plans.

Rk.	ALL-PURPOSE	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Bert Emanuel	6-0/190	Sr.	Rice	Great athlete has a strong arm.
2.	Tommie Frazier	6-2/200	Soph.	Nebraska	Just one interception as true freshman.
3.	Michael Carter	5-10/211	Sr.	Hawaii	Perfect QB for Rainbows' option attack.
4.	Jeff Garcia	6-1/185	Sr.	San Jose State	Good arm, great feet.
5.	Corey Pullig	6-3/205	Soph.	Texas A&M	Should excel now that he's established.
6.	Mike Thomas	6-2/222	Soph.	North Carolina	As the No. 1 guy, expect big things.
7.	Joe Hughes	6-3/215	Sr.	Wyoming	236 yards of total offense a game in '92.
8.	Robert Hall	6-0/170	Sr.	Texas Tech	Gives Red Raiders an extra dimension.
9.	Pookie Jones	6-1/192	Jr.	Kentucky	'Cats expects big improvement in '93.
10.	J.J. Joe	5-11/179	Sr.	Baylor	If he passed better, he'd rank higher.

Colorado's Westbrook makes the grade on, off field

By JOHN HENDERSON

Denver Post

The most surprising thing isn't that Michael Westbrook is scheduled to graduate from the University of Colorado in May with a degree in sociology.

The most surprising thing is that one of college football's premier receivers is in school at all.

"I've never seen a kid make more improvement than he made," Colorado Coach Bill McCartney said. "He was on very shaky ground early on."

Shaky? As a freshman in the fall of 1990, Westbrook says it seemed like the Colorado campus in Boulder was undergoing one continuous earthquake—with him almost falling through the cracks.

"It was to the point where I knew if I didn't do something the next semester," said Westbrook, a native of Detroit, "I'd have been kicked out of school."

In October 1990, McCartney suspended Westbrook for skipping classes his first semester. Westbrook was redshirted that season and finished the academic term with a grade-point average below 1.3. The school placed him on academic probation.

"When he first got here, he didn't really care about school," said Charles Johnson, who teamed with Westbrook last year to give Colorado only the fourth pair of receivers in college history with at least 1,000 receiving yards each in the same season. "Football was on his mind all the time."

Les Steckel, the Buffaloes' receivers coach in 1990, gave Westbrook a push. Well, more like a shove.

"He just came in and showed me some people do care even though I didn't care about myself," Westbrook said. "He was constantly on my back. If he wasn't calling me, he was coming by. It was like having another mom."

Westbrook's academic progress since that period has been even more amazing than his football progress, which has been considerable. After attending the last two summer sessions, he is set to earn his degree in four years. Westbrook isn't just slipping by, either. His grade-point average last year was better than 3.0.

He likes school so much, he has reneged on his announcement last December that, if he earns his degree, he probably would enter the National Football League draft after the 1993 season. Westbrook caught 76 passes for 1,060 yards and eight touchdowns last season. At 6-foot-4, 210 pounds, he has the size pro scouts covet. An outstanding athlete, he once long-jumped 23 feet in high school. But now, he says, he'd like to play a fourth season in Boulder.

"What I'm sticking around for is my teammates," Westbrook said. "My class, we came in together. I don't want to leave them."

Especially after he almost did so his freshman year. ■



Michael Westbrook: *The Colorado receiver has rebounded from academic problems.*

RECEIVERS

Rk.	RECEIVERS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Michael Westbrook	6-4/210	Jr.	Colorado	May be the next Michael Irvin.
2.	Ryan Yarbrough	6-2/188	Sr.	Wyoming	Total receiving package.
3.	Tamarick Vanover	6-1/210	Soph.	Florida State	Makes Seminoles' "fast break" go.
4.	Lloyd Hill	6-2/180	Sr.	Texas Tech	Known for soft hands, precise routes.
5.	Shelby Hill	6-0/194	Sr.	Syracuse	He's better than Qadry Ismail.
6.	Willie Jackson	6-1/195	Sr.	Florida	May leave as one of SEC's best-ever.
7.	Derrick Alexander	6-2/190	Sr.	Michigan	Has overcome knee injury to excel.
8.	David Palmer	5-9/170	Jr.	Alabama	If focused, could be an All-America.
9.	Charles Johnson	6-1/185	Sr.	Colorado	Forms dynamic duo with Westbrook.
10.	Terry Smith	6-1/200	Sr.	Clemson	Run-first offense can't hide his talent.
11.	Todd Dixon	5-11/173	Sr.	Wake Forest	Big-play receiver is a great leaper.
12.	Mill Coleman	5-10/170	Jr.	Michigan State	Will be given chance to catch 70.
13.	Darnay Scott	6-3/185	Jr.	San Diego State	Inconsistency can't keep him off list.
14.	Jason Shelley	6-2/180	Soph.	Washington	As a starter, he may lead the Pac-10.
15.	Lee Gissendaner	5-9/179	Sr.	Northwestern	Fearless receiver with explosive speed.
16.	Johnnie Morton	6-0/195	Sr.	Southern California	Will he prosper in new running offense?
17.	Malcolm Seabron	6-0/180	Sr.	Fresno State	Averaged 23.7 yards per grab.
18.	Troy Dickey	6-3/226	Sr.	Arizona	New offense may make him noteworthy.
19.	Eddie Small	6-1/200	Sr.	Mississippi	Good hands make him a clutch receiver.
20.	J.J. Stokes	6-4/215	Jr.	UCLA	He's being compared to Mike Sherrard.
Rk.	TIGHT ENDS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Greg Schorp	6-3/233	Sr.	Texas A&M	Most complete package at the position.
2.	Carlester Crumpler	6-6/245	Sr.	East Carolina	Big target has good hands, blocks well.
3.	Oscar McBride	6-5/251	Sr.	Notre Dame	This Irish TE may catch lots of passes.
4.	Shannon Mitchell	6-3/235	Sr.	Georgia	May become Eric Zeier's favorite target.
5.	Christian Fauria	6-4/235	Jr.	Colorado	Good blocker, sure hands.
6.	Aaron Mundy	6-6/248	Sr.	Virginia	Combines speed, strength.
7.	Kirk Botkin	6-3/226	Sr.	Arkansas	Knack for making the tough catch.
8.	Dwayne Chandler	6-3/240	Sr.	Kansas	Former RB is a deep threat.
9.	Brett Carolan	6-4/244	Sr.	Washington State	Following in his dad's footsteps.
10.	Pete Mitchell	6-2/228	Jr.	Boston College	Fine receiver, improving as blocker.

Va. Tech center has pro football in his blood

By DOUG DOUGHTY

Roanoke Times & World-News

Jim Pyne was nearly a teenager before he learned that his father once played in the National Football League. Since then, his family's football heritage has been incapable.

"I was playing around in the attic one day," said Pyne, an All-America candidate at center for Virginia Tech, "and I came upon a picture of my father sacking Jack Kemp. My father wasn't one to leave mementos lying around the family room."

Obviously.

Jim's father, George Pyne III, played for the Boston Patriots in 1965. His grandfather, George Pyne Jr., played with the Providence Steamroller, an NFL club from 1925-31.

Jim also is one of three brothers to play college football. His older brother, George, was an offensive lineman at Brown in the late 1980s. Another brother, David, plays at Lafayette. It is Jim, however, who is the best bet to make the Pynes pro football's first third-generation family.

"Jimmy is the one who looks most like my father, right down to the dimple on the chin," George III said. "Jimmy and his brothers were well on their way before anybody knew who their relatives were."

Although George III never pushed his sons to play football, he is their greatest supporter. Two years ago, he watched David play against Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va., one afternoon before flying to Columbia, S.C., for a Virginia Tech-South Carolina game that night.

The father never has to worry about whether Jim will be playing, either. Jim has been a center since the seventh grade and took 736 of 750 snaps (not counting special teams) as a sophomore at Tech in 1991. He has participated in 1,879 plays over the last three years and has never allowed a sack.

Although Pyne was listed at 6-foot-2, 257 pounds last season, he was measured at 6-2, 282 by the pro scouts who visited Virginia Tech last spring. Pyne has bench-pressed 440 pounds and run the 40 in 5.0 seconds.

There seems to be little question that Pyne will play pro football. Indeed, he gave some thought to declaring for the NFL draft at the end of last season, hinting last December that he might go pro before changing his mind two days later.

"It was frustration talking," said Pyne, who felt the school was not promoting him to the degree his play warranted.

"I definitely needed another year to get ready (for the NFL). I'm glad I stayed."

So are the Hokies. ■



Jim Pyne: The standout center hopes to follow his father and grandfather into the pros.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Rk.	CENTERS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Jim Pyne.....	6-2/280	Sr.	Virginia Tech	1,879 snaps without allowing a sack.
2.	Tobie Sheils.....	6-3/250	Sr.	Alabama	Miami (Fla.) LBs vouch for his skills.
3.	Kevin Mawae.....	6-4/270	Sr.	Louisiana State	Versatility makes him valuable.
4.	Chris Dausin.....	6-4/270	Sr.	Texas A&M	Fire in the hole of Aggie line.
5.	Quentin Neujahr.....	6-4/285	Sr.	Kansas State	Big part of K-State's revival.
6.	Toby Mills.....	6-2/271	Sr.	Arizona State	Three-year starter is steady, heady.
7.	Tim Ruddy.....	6-3/286	Sr.	Notre Dame	Weight-room disciple keeps improving.
8.	Michael Cheever.....	6-4/265	Soph.	Georgia Tech	Jackets' best lineman as a frosh in '92.
9.	Tom Nalen.....	6-3/268	Sr.	Boston College	Held inexperienced line together in '92.
10.	Glen Cavanaugh.....	6-7/290	Sr.	Stanford	Agile ex-guard keeps getting better.
Rk.	GUARDS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Mark Dixon.....	6-4/283	Sr.	Virginia	Ranks with former Cav OL greats.
2.	Mike Bedosky.....	6-5/288	Sr.	Missouri	Hopes of a rebound will follow his lead.
3.	Stacy Seegars.....	6-4/320	Sr.	Clemson	Mammoth knockdown king of ACC.
4.	Jon Stevenson.....	6-2/273	Jr.	Alabama	Intense player who is versatile.
5.	John Jones.....	6-2/285	Jr.	Kansas	Squat build makes him tough to avoid.
6.	Brian Cassidy.....	6-5/300	Sr.	Stanford	Best player on a big, experienced line.
7.	Patrick McNeil.....	6-3/270	Jr.	Florida State	Allowed just one-half sack last year.
8.	David Leaks.....	6-4/310	Sr.	Baylor	Powerful player who should improve.
9.	Jim Watson.....	6-3/294	Sr.	Florida	No one works harder than this Gator.
10.	Tyler Harrison.....	6-4/275	Sr.	Texas A&M	Bulwark of the Aggies' line.
Rk.	TACKLES	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Aaron Taylor.....	6-4/299	Sr.	Notre Dame	Technique, desire make him the best.
2.	Tony Boselli.....	6-7/285	Jr.	Southern California	Continuing USC line legacy.
3.	Reggie Green.....	6-6/295	Soph.	Florida	Best freshman tackle ever?
4.	Korey Stringer.....	6-6/316	Soph.	Ohio State	Drawing comparisons to Jim Lachey.
5.	Bernard Williams.....	6-9/310	Sr.	Georgia	Huge dominator who engulfs opponents.
6.	Curtis Parker.....	6-3/288	Sr.	North Carolina	Leads the Tar Heels' rushing parade.
7.	Roosevelt Patterson.....	6-4/290	Sr.	Alabama	Quick feet, intensity make him good.
8.	Tre Johnson.....	6-3/300	Sr.	Temple	Stout blocker could start for any team.
9.	Trezelle Jenkins.....	6-8/298	Soph.	Michigan	The next great Michigan lineman.
10.	Todd Steussie.....	6-6/305	Sr.	California	He's a Bear of a tackle.

Texas A&M's Adams ready to drop anchor on foes

By KIRK BOHLS

Austin American-Statesman

After two seasons of tantalizing and teasing Texas A&M fans, Sam Adams is gaining ground on those massive expectations that have dogged the equally massive defensive tackle since he was a heralded recruit.

Adams is shaping up as one of the Southwest Conference's premier defensive linemen on one of the best defensive lines anywhere.

"My goal is to play every game to the best of my ability and be a definite anchor point," Adams said. "I want them to depend on me play after play. I'd like to do something no one's done before, like get 20 or 30 sacks. I'm going to show the world Sam Adams can play with the best of them."

Over his first two seasons, however, the 6-foot-4, 270-pound junior was alternately terrorizing and tame, overpowering and overweight, consistently inconsistent.

The native Texan had almost as many mood swings as sacks. Coaches wondered if Adams simply wasn't mature enough or lost some motivation when his closest friend, noseguard Pat Henry, gave up football because of injuries.

Not until last summer did Adams discover an underlying cause. Doctors' diagnoses brought considerable relief because he had feared a worse alternative.

"I was shaking all the time," he said. "I was scared. I thought I was dying." Instead, he was suffering from a panic disorder syndrome, otherwise known as anxiety attacks. A gastrointestinal specialist told Adams he was secreting acid into his esophagus as a reaction to stress.

Adams was put on daily medication and learned how to cook chicken, fish and pasta dishes to improve his diet. He lost about 30 pounds in two weeks after having played at 297 as a freshman. He'd take walks or play his video computer games to relax.

"It was not like Sam was trying to dodge anything," defensive coordinator Bob Davie said. "I told him, 'There's nothing you need to be bashful or embarrassed about.'"

Adams' roundish appearance and easy manner belie his condition, which he now has under control.

"When you see him walk through the dining hall or at practice, he's so slow-moving, it's hard to picture him with the kind of quickness and explosion he has," Davie said of Adams, who had 4½ sacks last season, second most on the team. "From his first day here when he hit the sleds, you knew he was destined for greatness."

That is what drives Adams, whose father of the same name was an offensive lineman in the National Football League in the 1970s and early 1980s. That and playing on an unbeaten team.

"An Outland Trophy would be nice," Adams acknowledged, "but what I really want is to win a national championship." ■



Sam Adams: The lineman would rather win a national title than the Outland Trophy.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Rk.	TACKLES/NOSEMEN	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Rob Waldrop (NG)	6-2/274	Sr.	Arizona	Posted Emtman-like numbers in '92.
2.	Kevin Mitchell (NG)	6-1/240	Sr.	Syracuse	Cat-quick and overpowering.
3.	Chris Maumalanga (T)	6-3/290	Sr.	Kansas	Speed at the snap is unreal.
4.	Lou Benfatti (T)	6-3/270	Sr.	Penn State	Overachiever is Lions' best since Reid.
5.	Dan Wilkinson (T)	6-5/310	Soph.	Ohio State	Big Daddy need only control his weight.
6.	Bryant Young (T)	6-3/277	Sr.	Notre Dame	Solid performer rarely gets beat.
7.	Eric England (T)	6-3/264	Sr.	Texas A&M	Quick, steady, versatile and sound.
8.	Mike Wells (T)	6-4/280	Jr.	Iowa	Already Hawkeyes' career sack leader.
9.	Sam Adams (T)	6-4/282	Jr.	Texas A&M	Medical condition slowed him in '92.
10.	Lamark Shackerford (NG)	6-1/265	Sr.	Wisconsin	Squat build makes him prototype NG.
11.	Tony Henderson (MG)	6-2/256	Jr.	Michigan	Quickness forces offenses outside.
12.	Brentson Buckner (T)	6-2/300	Sr.	Clemson	Will leave as Tigers' top sack man.
13.	Pat Riley (T)	6-6/278	Jr.	Miami (Fla.)	Yet another awesome 'Cane lineman.
14.	Romeo Bandison (T)	6-5/280	Sr.	Oregon	Key to Ducks' defensive turnaround.
15.	Tyoka Jackson (T)	6-2/255	Sr.	Penn State	Makes Lions' coaches smile.
16.	Lance Teichelman (NG)	6-4/259	Jr.	Texas A&M	A leader on the Aggie line.
17.	Carl Reeves (T)	6-4/219	Sr.	North Carolina St.	Plays bigger than his size.
18.	Lenny Gomes (NG)	6-2/265	Sr.	Brigham Young	Intense leader of fine BYU line.
19.	James Gregory (NT)	6-4/283	Sr.	Alabama	Sturdy stud who anchors line.
20.	Randy Brock (T)	6-6/265	Jr.	Brigham Young	Could be as good as Jason Buck.
Rk.	ENDS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Shante Carver	6-5/228	Sr.	Arizona State	Lanky, quick end roars past tackles.
2.	Willie McGinest	6-6/240	Sr.	Southern California	Came into his own last year.
3.	Darren Krein	6-4/258	Sr.	Miami (Fla.)	Former LB is now a force on the line.
4.	Kevin Patrick	6-4/255	Sr.	Miami (Fla.)	Ex-TE is mentally, physically tough.
5.	Jason Simmons	6-5/240	Sr.	Ohio State	Looks gawky, plays super.
6.	Kevin Carter	6-6/257	Jr.	Florida	Led Gators in big plays.
7.	Jeremy Nunley	6-5/247	Sr.	Alabama	No dropoff from Curry, Copeland.
8.	Charles Beauchamp	6-2/225	Sr.	Indiana	Knee injury ruined '92.
9.	Jason Gildon	6-4/230	Sr.	Oklahoma State	Should break OSU's career sack mark.
10.	Jamal Duff	6-7/250	Jr.	San Diego State	Change in defense could free him.

NOTE: Rusty Medearis of Miami (Fla.) not listed due to injury.

Film watching Dotson leaves foes star-gazing

By **RON HIGGINS**

Memphis Commercial Appeal

Move over, Siskel and Ebert. There's a new film critic with a keen eye and a mean disposition.

Mississippi inside linebacker Dewayne Dotson is a connoisseur of football game films. His opinions don't make or break stars, but his hits make opponents see them.

"There's an art form to watching game film, and I watch a lot of it because it simplifies the game for me," said the 6-foot-2, 260-pound senior. "In my head, I have a little book on opponents. It makes it so much easier that I just let my athletic ability take over when I get on the field."

Watching game films until his vision blurred was the secret of his success last season. Dotson, who transferred to Ole Miss after playing at Tennessee in 1989 and '90, became one of the Southeastern Conference's most feared linebackers last year, collecting 100 tackles, including a team-high 10 sacks for minus 63 yards and five stops for minus 19 yards.

Ole Miss Coach Billy Brewer, who just missed signing Dotson out of Hendersonville (Tenn.) High School, said he's had few players who've made as sudden an impact as Dotson.

"By the time he got to us, Dewayne had matured," Brewer said. "What impressed me was what he did during the year (1991) he sat out. He could have cut corners, but he didn't. He made every practice, every weight-training session and didn't miss a class."

Additionally, Dotson watched films, studying his opponents and their tendencies. He wanted to know who he would play against and how he would defense them when he resumed playing in 1992.

Work like that has improved Dotson's on-field intelligence, which has impressed veteran Ole Miss defensive coordinator Joe Lee Dunn.

"His knowledge of the game is really remarkable," Dunn said. "You might fool him one time, but you're not going to fool him again. He just has great football sense. It's like the game really suits him."

Dotson, who usually lines up on the left side, had such a profound effect on teams last year that they usually ran away from him. That was odd, since most offenses prefer running to the right, or at Dotson's side.

"I feel if I keep hustling, I'm going to make the play," Dotson said. "But I always feel I could play better, especially after looking at films. I'm my own worst film critic." ■



Dewayne Dotson: *The Ole Miss linebacker made a sudden impact in 1992.*

LINEBACKERS

Rk.	INSIDE	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Keith Burns	6-2/235	Sr.	Oklahoma State	No one is more dominating.
2.	Dana Howard	6-0/240	Jr.	Illinois	Perhaps nation's most physical LB.
3.	Dewayne Dotson	6-2/260	Sr.	Mississippi	Super talent is Tennessee's loss.
4.	Sean Harris	6-3/251	Jr.	Arizona	Raw numbers don't reflect his ability.
5.	Dan Conley	6-2/229	Sr.	Syracuse	If healthy, expect a terrific season.
6.	Steve Morrison	6-3/242	Jr.	Michigan	Lambert, Ham were childhood heroes.
7.	Winfred Tubbs	6-5/250	Sr.	Texas	'Horns think he can be as good as Nobis.
8.	Anthony McClanahan	6-2/222	Sr.	Washington State	Virtual unknown hits hard, plays big.
9.	Ryan McCoy	6-3/240	Sr.	Houston	Tough hitter plays hard every down.
10.	Cassius Ware	6-0/240	Sr.	Mississippi	Teams with Dotson to punish foes.
11.	Jason Atkinson	6-3/234	Sr.	Texas A&M	Main run-stuffer of Wrecking Crew.
12.	Barron Wortham	6-0/230	Sr.	Texas-El Paso	Roams the WAC delivering big hits.
13.	Jermaine Younger	6-0/245	Sr.	Utah State	Best player in the Big West.
14.	John Holecek	6-2/223	Jr.	Illinois	Solid craftsman complements Howard.
15.	Danton Barto	6-0/230	Sr.	Memphis State	He reminds people of Butkus.
Rk.	OUTSIDE	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Derrick Brooks	6-1/225	Jr.	Florida State	Perfect man to replace Marvin Jones.
2.	Ron Woolfork	6-4/240	Sr.	Colorado	Closing in on Buffalo sack record.
3.	Matt Dyson	6-5/252	Jr.	Michigan	Best player on talented defense.
4.	Trev Alberts	6-4/230	Sr.	Nebraska	Cornhuskers' best all-around athlete.
5.	Lemanski Hall	6-1/220	Sr.	Alabama	Always around the ball.
6.	Aubrey Beavers	6-2/232	Sr.	Oklahoma	Still roaring after lengthy layoff.
7.	Nate Dingle	6-3/254	Sr.	Cincinnati	Impossible to single-block.
8.	Simeon Rice	6-5/242	Soph.	Illinois	Pass-rush specialist can only improve.
9.	Mitch Davis	6-3/240	Sr.	Georgia	Dawgs are glad he decided to stay.
10.	Craig Powell	6-4/215	Soph.	Ohio State	Speed makes him a good cover man.
11.	Tyler Lawrence	6-5/240	Sr.	North Carolina St.	Headliner on solid Wolfpack LB corps.
12.	Lance Johnstone	6-3/220	Soph.	Temple	The Owls' best athlete.
13.	Marlon Williams	6-2/209	Sr.	Georgia Tech	Big-play man of the Tech defense.
14.	Lenoy Jones	6-4/195	Soph.	Texas Christian	When he matures, look out!
15.	Darwin Ireland	6-1/218	Sr.	Arkansas	One Hog who never goes to slaughter.

NOTE: Jamir Miller of UCLA is not listed due to off-season suspension.

Tide's Langham decides his NFL 'family' can wait

By CECIL HURT

Tuscaloosa News

Like many young men facing a big decision, Antonio Langham talked things over with his family.

At issue was whether Alabama's standout defensive back should forsake his final season of collegiate eligibility to enter the National Football League draft.

Of course, Langham's family has more insight into such matters than most. One cousin, Chris Goode, is a cornerback for the Indianapolis Colts. Another cousin, Kerry Goode, was a star tailback at Alabama in the mid-1980s whose brief pro football career was ruined by a knee injury.

"I had a chance to look at both sides," Langham said. "I started thinking about it as soon as we got back from New Orleans (where the Crimson Tide won the national championship in the Sugar Bowl). At one time, I thought that going pro would probably be the right decision. But Chris filled me in on a lot of things. He explained that the money for a defensive back isn't what it is for a running back or a receiver, and that if I wanted to be in the first round of the draft, I needed to get bigger and stronger.

"So I decided to wait. If I perform halfway decent this year, maybe I'll go in the top five or top 10. Who knows?"

It seems quite likely that Langham will exceed "halfway decent" in 1993. He was probably the top big-play cornerback in college football last season, and a repeat performance will make him a strong contender for the Jim Thorpe Award, given annually to the nation's top defensive back.

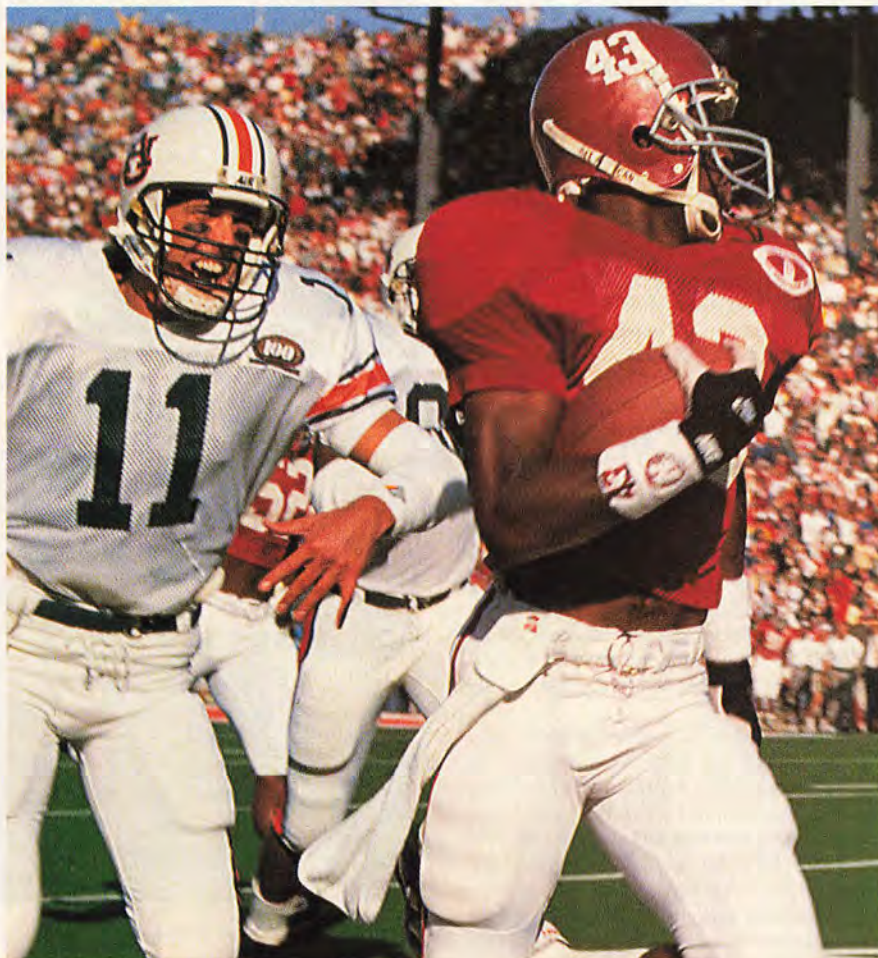
"The greatest thing about Antonio is that he will fight you every step of the way," Alabama assistant Bill Oliver said. "If you put him out there without his uniform, he'd fight you with his fingernails and toenails."

Langham intercepted six passes last year and scored touchdowns in Alabama's three biggest Southeastern Conference wins. In consecutive games, he blocked a punt for a touchdown against Mississippi State, made a one-handed interception that he returned 61 yards for a touchdown against Auburn and ran back an interception 27 yards for the winning touchdown in the Crimson Tide's 28-21 victory over Florida in the inaugural SEC championship game.

"You can't expect a stretch like that again," the 6-foot-1, 170-pound Langham said. "I'm not predicting big plays, although you like to make them. My goal is to be more of a field general this year."

He may have to be. The Tide defense, the nation's best in 1992, has lost its top two pass rushers—All-America linemen John Copeland and Eric Curry.

"I know that other teams are going to be gunning for me a lot more, to see if I really deserve all the honors or if it was just the pass rush that made our secondary good," Langham said. "And I intend to step up and show them." ■



Antonio Langham: Big plays are the name of the game for Alabama's star cornerback.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Rk.	SAFETIES	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Johnny Dixon	6-0/210	Sr.	Mississippi	Hard hitter can play either safety spot.
2.	Bobby Taylor	6-3/191	Soph.	Notre Dame	Forced his way into lineup last year.
3.	Shonte Peoples	6-1/227	Sr.	Michigan	Leader of Wolverine lynch mob.
4.	Derek Bochna	5-11/188	Sr.	Penn State	Quiet leader by example.
5.	Terris Harris	6-1/195	Sr.	Miami (Fla.)	'Cane secondary leader is cat-quick.
6.	Greg Tremble	5-11/185	Sr.	Georgia	Hard-hitting leader of Dawgs' defense.
7.	Bracey Walker	5-11/185	Sr.	North Carolina	Knack for making key defensive plays.
8.	Tony Bouie	5-10/188	Jr.	Arizona	Great on the field, glib off it.
9.	Greg Evans	6-2/210	Sr.	Texas Christian	Heady, heavy hitter has 12 career picks.
10.	Lee Rubin	5-9/185	Sr.	Penn State	Bad ankle slowed him in '92.
11.	Jaime Mendez	6-0/200	Sr.	Kansas State	Wildcats' career interception leader.
12.	Kwamie Lassiter	6-1/175	Sr.	Kansas	Physical presence in secondary.
13.	Scott Harmon	5-8/190	Sr.	Oklahoma State	Big Eight's top ballhawk last two years.
14.	Chico Nelson	6-1/197	Sr.	Ohio State	Fans will forget Roger Harper.
15.	Kelvin Knight	6-1/203	Sr.	Mississippi State	The Bulldogs' last line of defense.
Rk.	CORNERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Antonio Langham	6-1/170	Sr.	Alabama	Knack for tight coverage, big plays.
2.	Aaron Glenn	5-10/180	Sr.	Texas A&M	Great cover guy replaced Kevin Smith.
3.	Corey Sawyer	5-11/165	Jr.	Florida State	He may be better than Terrell Buckley.
4.	Tyrone Drakeford	5-10/187	Sr.	Virginia Tech	Gambling back is adored by NFL scouts.
5.	Jimmy Young	5-11/185	Sr.	Purdue	Reluctant corner is now Big Ten's best.
6.	Jeff Burris	6-0/204	Sr.	Notre Dame	Heady player rarely makes a mistake.
7.	Vaughn Bryant	5-11/180	Sr.	Stanford	Excellent, explosive cover man.
8.	Larry Kennedy	5-10/182	Jr.	Florida	Opponents steer clear of him.
9.	Clifton Abraham	5-9/185	Jr.	Florida State	Size is his only disadvantage.
10.	Chris Hudson	5-11/190	Jr.	Colorado	Instincts of a safety, speed of a corner.
11.	Tommy Johnson	5-10/175	Jr.	Alabama	Looks to build on good bowl game.
12.	Dexter Seigler	5-9/180	Sr.	Miami (Fla.)	Hurricanes' best cover man.
13.	Herman O'Berry	5-11/179	Jr.	Oregon	Great athlete makes spectacular plays.
14.	Corey Fuller	5-11/192	Sr.	Florida State	The best nickel back in college football.
15.	Frank Adams	5-8/165	Sr.	South Carolina	One of the best cover men in the SEC.

Gissendaner not comfortable with Heisman hype

By **LEN ZIEHM**

Chicago Sun-Times

The Northwestern coaching staff's orchestrated proposal of Lee Gissendaner as a Heisman Trophy candidate at last fall's postseason team banquet was refreshing—and amusing.

After all, Heisman candidates don't come from schools that have endured 21 consecutive losing seasons and haven't won as many as four games in a season since 1986.

Gissendaner's candidacy, however, got serious in a hurry.

Shortly after the school's banquet, Big Ten Conference coaches and staffers, along with selected media members, awarded the 5-foot-9, 179-pound wide receiver from Stow, O., the Chicago Tribune Silver Football, which is given to the best player in the league.

Since the award's inception in 1924, only four Northwestern players had received it, the last being Mike Adamle in 1970. Other Wildcat honorees were Tim Lowry in 1925, Otto Graham in 1943 and Art Murakowski in 1948, the only season Northwestern earned a Rose Bowl invitation.

Gissendaner's predecessor as the Silver Football honoree was Michigan receiver Desmond Howard who, as we all know, won the Heisman.

"I was surprised to be named with great players like those," the soft-spoken Gissendaner said. "I couldn't have dreamed something like this."

Neither could Coach Gary Barnett, who finished 3-8 in his first season at Northwestern.

"Many times, in many conferences, these awards go to people who just have the statistics," Barnett said. "The beautiful thing here is that it goes to a perfect football player. Lee represents everything a coach wants a player to be."

Gissendaner had the statistics, too. He averaged 21.8 yards on 15 punt returns to lead NCAA Division I-A. He paced the Big Ten in receptions (68) and receiving yards (846), and he found four ways to score his nine touchdowns: rushing (one), punt return (one), kickoff return (one) and receiving (six).

But despite his success, the senior is not comfortable with his Heisman candidacy.

"I tried to imagine myself in that position," he said after watching Miami (Fla.) quarterback Gino Torretta win the 1992 Heisman, "and it was real hard.

"Sometimes I'll go to a party, and someone will make an announcement that I'm a 1993 Heisman candidate. I feel like slinking into a hole."



Lee Gissendaner: *It's hard for the Wildcat star to believe he's a Heisman candidate.*

SPECIAL TEAMS

Rk.	KICKERS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Joe Allison	6-0/185	Sr.	Memphis State	23 of 25 FGA, 101 points.
2.	Dan Eichloff	6-0/215	Sr.	Kansas	16 of 20 FGA, 86 points.
3.	Nelson Welch	5-8/182	Jr.	Clemson	22 of 28 FGA, 89 points.
4.	Tommy Thompson	5-10/185	Sr.	Oregon	21 of 34 FGA, 85 points.
5.	Eric Abrams	5-7/160	Soph.	Stanford	16 of 20 FGA, 79 points.
6.	Doug Brien	6-0/170	Sr.	California	16 of 18 FGA, 76 points.
7.	Scott Etheridge	5-11/148	Sr.	Auburn	22 of 28 FGA, 86 points.
8.	Scott Szeredy	6-2/226	Sr.	Texas	16 of 21 FGA, 80 points.
9.	Scott Blanton	6-2/211	Jr.	Oklahoma	16 of 18 FGA, 75 points.
10.	Joe Nedney	6-5/205	Jr.	San Jose State	14 of 19 FGA, 72 points.

NOTE: Craig Fayak of Penn State is not listed due to injury.

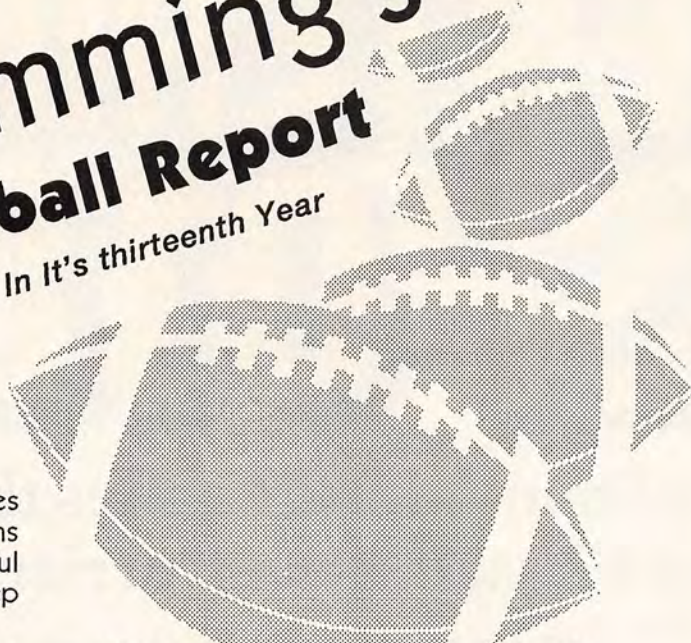
Rk.	PUNTERS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Mitch Berger	6-3/220	Sr.	Colorado	47.0-yard average, 53 punts.
2.	Todd Jordan	6-2/223	Sr.	Mississippi State	43.6-yard average, 52 punts.
3.	Mike Thomas	6-2/222	Soph.	North Carolina	43.1-yard average, 56 punts.
4.	Todd Sauerbrun	6-0/195	Jr.	West Virginia	44.3-yard average, 53 punts.
5.	Pat O'Neill	6-1/197	Sr.	Syracuse	42.3-yard average, 35 punts.
6.	Tommy Thompson	5-10/185	Sr.	Oregon	41.4-yard average, 61 punts.
7.	Jim DiGiulio	6-0/180	Jr.	Indiana	44.3-yard average, 53 punts.
8.	Terry Daniel	6-1/226	Jr.	Auburn	42.6-yard average, 65 punts.
9.	Robert King	6-4/187	Sr.	Texas Tech	42.6-yard average, 53 punts.
10.	Tim Kollas	5-11/189	Sr.	Oregon State	41.8-yard average, 71 punts.

Rk.	ALL-PURPOSE/RETURN MEN	Ht./Wt.	Class	School	Comment
1.	Lee Gissendaner	5-9/179	Sr.	Northwestern	Nation's No. 1 punt returner (21.8). Returned first two kickoffs for TDs.
2.	Tamarick Vanover	6-1/210	Soph.	Florida State	Averaged 14.8 yards on 33 punt returns.
3.	Corey Sawyer	5-11/165	Jr.	Florida State	3rd in country in kickoff returns (30.0).
4.	Lew Lawhorn	5-10/155	Jr.	Temple	Returned two '92 punts for TDs.
5.	Derrick Alexander	6-2/190	Sr.	Michigan	The Eel returned three punts for TDs.
6.	James McMillion	5-9/175	Sr.	Iowa State	Looks to regain '91 form.
7.	David Palmer	5-9/170	Jr.	Alabama	His skills excite fans, scare foes.
8.	Beno Bryant	5-11/178	Sr.	Washington	Looks to build on impressive '92 debut.
9.	Daymeian Gallimore	6-0/170	Soph.	West Virginia	'Cats are wild about his skills.
10.	Chuck Levy	6-0/199	Jr.	Arizona	

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ENTERING THE SPOTLIGHT

LeShon Johnson defies the odds, makes name for himself as ballcarrier at Northern Illinois

By RICH STROM

Chicago Tribune

LeShon Johnson will never forget the biggest hit he ever took.

It didn't happen last season, when he ran for 1,338 yards for Northern Illinois. In fact, it didn't happen on a football field.

It happened on a real battlefield—a rodeo arena—a few years back.

"One time I got thrown off a bull," Johnson said, as his eyes widened and his voice raised, "and the bull got scared and came down and hit my thigh. I couldn't walk for a week."

Today, Johnson is walking tall—and staying off bulls.

"LeShon Johnson. Remember that name," said Chicago Bears safety Shaun Gayle, who did the color commentary for Northern Illinois' telecast game against Southern Mississippi last year, a contest in which Johnson ran like an untamed horse for 188 yards. "Once he sees he's going to make contact, he becomes the punisher. He's the type you look for in the NFL down the road."

Johnson had his sights set on the National Football League when he arrived at Northern Illinois two years ago. His friends laughed, not so much at his dream of playing professional football, but at his choice of school.

Northern Illinois? Heck, why not just go to Northern Saskatchewan? Johnson's buddies couldn't see how could he make a name for himself at a school located in DeKalb, Ill. "You're going to the wrong school," they said.

But maybe Johnson knew something they didn't. After all, in 1973, the Huskies had a bulldog-of-a-back named Mark Kellar who led all NCAA Division I rushers with 1,719 yards. His total bested, among others, Pittsburgh's Tony Dorsett by 133 yards and Ohio State's Archie Griffin by 291. He was a sixth-round draft choice of the Minnesota Vikings in 1974.

Additionally, in 1990, Northern Illinois led the nation in rushing offense, averaging



Pro scouts can find the likes of LeShon Johnson.

344.6 yards per game.

"I knew what I could do," Johnson said. "No matter where you go, scouts will find you. It depends on how bad you want it."

The 6-foot, 201-pound tailback showed he wanted it pretty badly for the 5-6 Huskies last season, ranking eighth among Division I-A rushers. He posted six 100-yard rushing games, including a career-high 192 yards on 28 carries against Liberty. That performance impressed Liberty Coach Sam Rutigliano, former boss of the Cleveland Browns.

"In my view, he can play at Michigan or Ohio State," Rutigliano said. "I was in pro football for 18 years, and I think he can play at that level. He has the size, speed, acceleration and power."

Those attributes are a big reason why Johnson enters 1993 as the nation's No. 2 returning rusher behind San Diego State's Marshall Faulk. And the senior's skills also allow him to keep dreaming.

"My sophomore year in junior college (Northeastern Oklahoma A&M), I wrote my mom a letter, promising her when I go pro I'd buy her a big house," Johnson said. "She still has it. I hope everything turns out. She's always been there for me. I thank her for keeping me straight. I owe her a favor. That's the reason why I don't give up my

dream."

Growing up on a horse ranch in Haskell, Okla., Johnson once dreamed of being a rodeo star. He rode bulls, his first love in high school, and he wanted to travel the rodeo circuit with his father, who used to put on rodeos and now shows horses, and two older brothers.

But those thoughts began to change after he rushed for 1,154 yards on 104 carries as a senior at Haskell High School. Although he wasn't recruited, his coach, Jim Reece, persuaded Johnson to continue working out.

"I had made up my mind to join the rodeo," Johnson said.

But the offer to walk on at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M changed his mind.

"My dad said if I don't make it, I could always come back to the rodeo," Johnson said.

He hasn't been on a bull since—although he'd like to ride one again.

Three games into his freshman season at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, Johnson became a starter. He finished as the team's top rusher, netting 758 yards on 148 carries. He gained 543 yards on 84 attempts in seven games as a sophomore and was all set to enroll at Tennessee (now there's a football school that attracts attention) the following fall. But because he was three credits short of qualifying at Tennessee, his opportunity to become a Volunteer fell through.

Enter Northern Illinois.

Offensive coordinator Joe Dickinson woke up Johnson one morning at 6:30 and asked him to fly in and take a look at the Northern Illinois campus, which is located 65 miles west of Chicago.

Johnson enrolled at Northern Illinois in the spring of 1991. But as it turns out, he would have been ineligible at most schools he would have transferred to, so he had to sit out the '91 season. After a year on campus, "I told Coach (Charlie) Sadler I needed to talk," Johnson said. "He thought I was going to talk about my classes, but I told him I wanted to transfer."

"He started trembling and shaking and said, 'No matter what, I'll never release you

(from his scholarship commitment).’ ”

“It was like Michael Jordan going in and saying he wanted to play somewhere else,” Sadler recalled. “I don’t think the Bulls would be too happy about it.”

But the one-time bull rider had a quick change of heart.

“Once I left his office, I thought this place isn’t so bad after all,” Johnson said with a laugh. “I can’t thank him enough for keeping me here, because if I was at any other school, I’d just be another back.”

Johnson proved from the beginning to the Huskie staff that he was no ordinary back. In his debut, he gained 81 yards on 20 carries against Illinois, displaying his love for lowering his shoulder and running over people.

“He reminds me of Mike Rozier,” said Sadler, who as an assistant in the Big Eight Conference watched hours of film on the former Nebraska running back. “He runs through tackles.”

“You need to get respect from the other team,” Johnson said, “then in the second half you open up and juke a little bit.”

Three weeks later, he gained 107 yards against another Big Ten Conference school, Wisconsin, then hit his stride in the Southern Miss game. Johnson followed that performance with his big effort against Liberty, then gained 157 against Western Michigan and 152 against Southwestern Louisiana. And if not for an official’s incorrect illegal block call, which wiped out a 79-yard touchdown run the next week against Army, Johnson would have posted another 100-yard day.

“We’ve really got something here,” said Sadler, who had to convince Johnson (again) to remain at Northern Illinois last January.

“I had some people talk to my parents (about entering the 1993 NFL draft), and they wanted me to leave school,” said Johnson, a studio art major. “Then my coaches sat me down and told me if I wait and stay healthy, I could make a lot more money.”

“My parents backed my decision to stay in school 100 percent. I felt I made the right decision.”

Mom’s new house can wait another year. And it looks as if bull riding is on hold for a while longer, too.

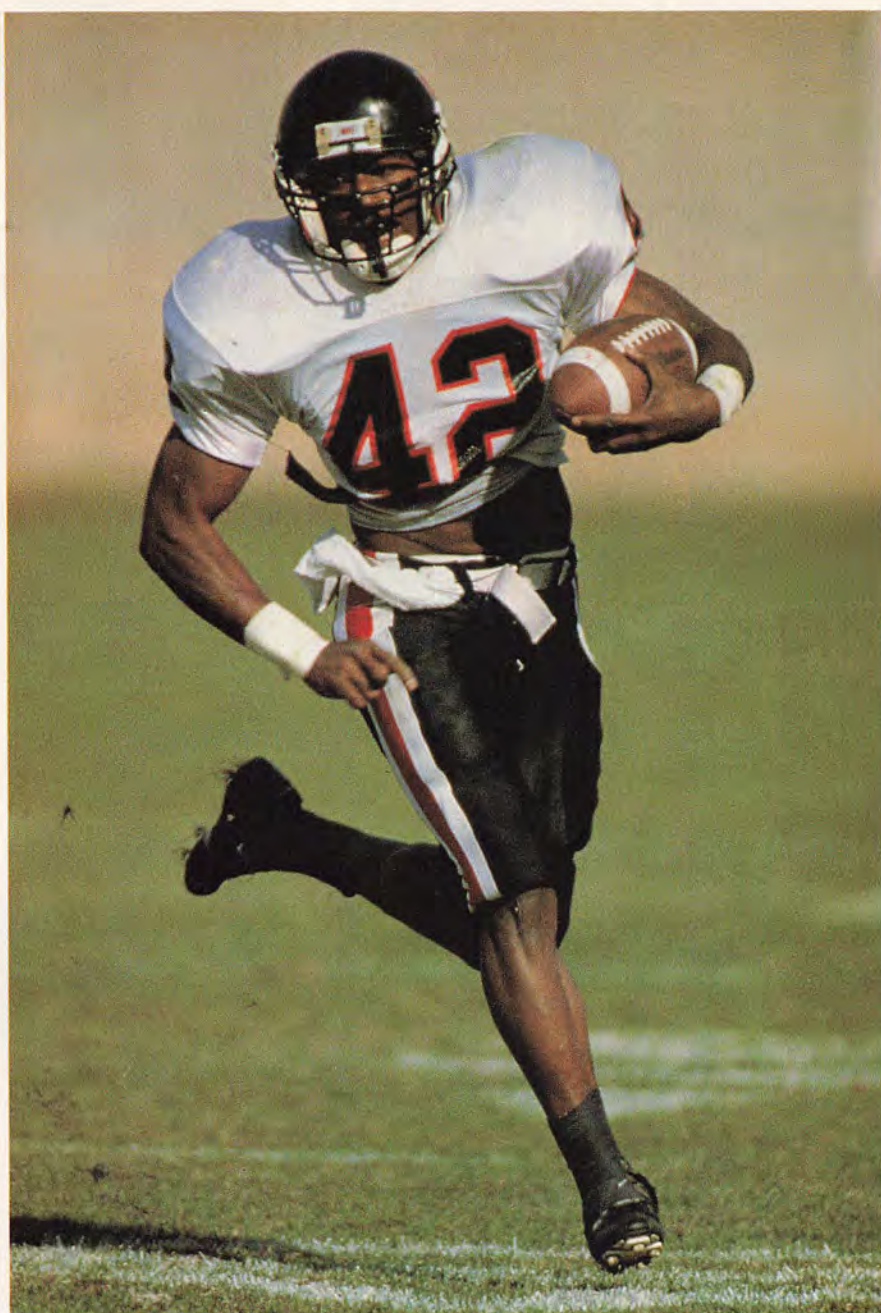
“Whenever I go home, I want to do it, but something tells me to stay off in case a freak accident happens,” Johnson said.

“Bull riding is tougher than football—the pressure on your body, the jerking, the pounding. You make one mistake, you don’t have a second chance to recover. In football, you make a mistake and you can make up for it. In bull riding, you don’t know what to expect.”

On the football field, Johnson expects to improve on his ’92 performance. This season—the Huskies’ first in the Big West Conference—he’d like to gain between 1,600 and 1,700 yards rushing and catch 40 to 50 passes. He caught only three last year.

“Every time the ball gets in his hands, the play has a chance to be a success,” said Sadler, who along with Dickinson is trying to devise as many ways as possible to get the ball in their featured back’s hands. “The Chicago Bears have been in to look at him, and they’re highly impressed.”

By the end of 1993, chances are the Bears won’t be the only ones impressed. ■



Having suffered pain during rodeo competition, Johnson now deals out punishment on football field.

PEEKING OUT FROM THE SHADOWS

Like Northern Illinois’ LeShon Johnson, many players around the country are worthy of national recognition but, as yet, remain stars on more of a regional level, if they’re famous at all. Such players fall into three general classifications: underexposed (they don’t get the exposure they deserve), underappreciated (they are relatively well-known in some cases, but don’t get the national credit they deserve) and underrated (they’re better than you think). Following are lists of the top 10 players in each category:

UNDEREXPOSED

Chad Patton, DE, Southern Methodist
Jermaine Younger, LB, Utah State
LeShon Johnson, TB, Northern Illinois
Winslow Oliver, TB, New Mexico
Lee DeRamus, SE, Wisconsin
Dwight Shirley, FB, Boston College
Torey Hunter, CB, Washington State
Aaron Mundy, TE, Virginia
Ross Hales, TE, Indiana
Joe Wyse, OT, Bowling Green

UNDERAPPRECIATED

Thomas Lewis, WR, Indiana
Romeo Bandison, DT, Oregon
Nate Dingle, LB, Cincinnati
Bruce Presley, RB, Rutgers
Wil Ursin, WR, Tulane
Michael Tobias, DT, S. Mississippi
Eric Drage, WR, Brigham Young
Cory Fleming, SE, Tennessee
Matt O’Dwyer, OT, Northwestern
Luther Elliss, DE, Utah

UNDERRATED

Darwin Ireland, LB, Arkansas
Marty Moore, LB, Kentucky
Terrell Fletcher, RB, Wisconsin
Steve Strahan, DT, Baylor
Jeff Brothers, FS/P, Vanderbilt
Steve Harvey, LB, Kansas
Craig Gibson, C, S. California
Javier Zuluaga, LB, Navy
Marlon Pearce, WR, Cincinnati
William Ephraim, FS, Oregon St.

WIDE LOAD IN THE FAST LANE



No one can question the work ethic of breakaway runner Tyrone Wheatley, a man who clearly is not a couch potato.

By **BOB WOJNOWSKI**

Detroit News

It was midwinter, college football's off-season, a time when players wrestle with such weighty issues as the kind of pizza toppings to order. A time to relax, recuperate, maybe add a pound or two.

But there, striding through the doors of the Michigan indoor track building, was Tyrone Wheatley, football star, track star, roller-blading star (more on that later) and, uh, oh, he's wearing Michigan basketball shorts. Those really gaudy yellow ones.

Tyrone, something we should know?

"Nah," he said, smiling. "I hoop against the fellas a little bit. Just to see how I do."

The "fellas" are not the Fab Five fellas, just some friends. And how Wheatley does is not as important as the fact that he does something. He's always doing something.

This guy considers himself a borderline sofa spud if he watches a half-hour sitcom.

"I just can't sit still," Wheatley said shortly after winning the 55-meter sprint in the Michigan Relays in January. It was his first track competition since his days as a three-sport star at Robichaud High School in Inkster, Mich.

"I've been that way my whole life, always restless. I've got to keep the competitive edge, keep my speed. Running track is like a self-check, to see where you stand. Besides, without football practice, what would I do all afternoon, procrastinate? Watch TV?"

No one would complain if he were inclined to recline on a lumpy sofa and pop in a tape of last season's Rose Bowl, when he tore through Washington's defense for 235 yards and three touchdowns on only 15 carries. But Wheatley, who rushed for 1,357 yards as a sophomore last fall, is inclined to keep

on sprinting, lest someone is gaining.

For him, consistency of movement is as important as rapidity of movement. And perhaps no one in college football is more difficult to catch.

In two seasons at Michigan—less than one as the starting tailback—Wheatley has averaged a school-record 7.03 yards per carry. Last year, he had touchdown runs of 88, 82, 56 and 54 yards. He also caught a 50-yard touchdown pass and tied a school record with a 99-yard kickoff return against Houston. He is the first player in Michigan history to score touchdowns of at least 80 yards in consecutive games.

Wheatley ended the year with 17 touchdowns (13 rushing, three receiving, one return) and was named the Big Ten Conference's Offensive Player of the Year. He'll be the featured back this season as Michigan tries to win its sixth straight conference



On or off field, Michigan's Wheatley is always on the go

crown. He'll be a favorite to give the school its second Heisman Trophy winner in three years. And he'll be the highest-profile player on a high-profile team, which should not overshadow the fact he also might be the hardest-working.

"The amazing thing was, he played harder in spring ball than at any point during a season since he's been here," Michigan Coach Gary Moeller said. "He's blocking better, he's conscious of running pass routes. He's further ahead maturity-wise than he was a year ago. He likes to compete. He works on everything. It's a pride thing. He wants to get better."

Some would debate if that's possible. Certainly, some Washington Huskies would debate it. After Wheatley's performance in Michigan's 38-31 Rose Bowl victory, the Huskies spilled superlatives as if in awe.

"I've never seen a back with that much

speed and that much power," linebacker James Clifford said. "He'll run around you, over you, everything. Heck, how much credit can I give him? He did it all."

Defensive coordinator Jim Lambright, who has been at Washington for 24 years, shook his head when asked to describe Wheatley.

"We couldn't tackle him; we couldn't even see him most of the time," he said. "When you're not in position, you don't have a prayer because you can't run him down. He's as good a back as we've ever seen."

Amazingly, Wheatley sat out the fourth quarter with back spasms and still gained the most yards ever by a Wolverine in a bowl game. He simply ran and hid, an ability that will serve him well when the spotlight warms in 1993.

And it will warm. With quarterback Elvis Grbac, fullback Burnie Legette, tight end Tony McGee and four starting offensive linemen gone from last year's team, Michigan's offense must be retooled. And the 6-foot-1, 225-pound Wheatley is a good place to start.

Even at a school that has produced a long line of fine running backs—Butch Woolfolk, Jamie Morris, Tony Boles, Leroy Hoard and Jon Vaughn—Wheatley is a rare commodity of power, strength, speed and modesty.

"The offensive line did all the work in the Rose Bowl," he said. "It would've been a sin if I didn't score on those plays. The way I look at it, there's always room in life to learn. That's what I learned from Desmond (Howard, the 1991 Heisman winner). He wasn't in the Heisman race at the beginning and he came on to win it because he kept getting better."

"I shouldn't get all the publicity. Todd Collins (Michigan's new quarterback) will get most of the pressure."

No matter how much he resists, Wheatley will find the 1993 season a far different one from 1992. Wheatley opened last season in a backup role. This year, he's the undisputed No. 1 tailback and the school's most viable preseason Heisman candidate since Anthony Carter in 1982. Even Howard's candidacy two years ago wasn't launched until after the season began.

"That's one of those things you just can't control," Moeller said. "Desmond popped up in midseason and I wasn't really prepared for it. I had to sit him down and talk to him, and I'll tell Tyrone what I told Desmond: 'I'd like to see you win it, but not at the expense of the team. If the team wins, you've got a better chance.'"

"Desmond got better with all the applause, but that's so rare in athletics. Very few guys can handle it. Tyrone's a great kid and I think he can. Because he's been good at so many things, he's learned how to accept the applause."

Wheatley requested that Michigan's offensive linemen join him at the postgame Rose Bowl press conference when he received the Most Valuable Player award. He talked softly and humbly, true to his nature as one of the Wolverines' quietest stars.

"He's the greatest luxury an offense can have," said Collins, who started two games last year. "Everybody knows about his run-

ning ability, but you should see him block in practice. He steps up and beats the crap out of defensive linemen. And nobody knows about his catching ability (Wheatley caught 13 passes for an 11.2-yard average last year). He gets in the open field and can make anybody miss. He's going to scare the heck out of a lot of defenses."

Wheatley was scaring the heck out of Michigan's defense in spring practice, where he punished defenders. His size/speed combination is astounding. He was clocked in 6.30 seconds when he won that 55-meter race in January, which came just three days after his first workout. The mark was just .08 off the school record.

For Wheatley, time is precious and compressed and shouldn't be wasted. Simple things—235-yard games, 88-yard touchdown runs, Rose Bowl MVP awards—come quickly. Complex things, like NFL careers, must wait.

Wheatley said he didn't consider turning pro after last season and still plans to stay at Michigan for four years. That perspective could change, of course, as Moeller finds new ways to get him the ball. Although Michigan's top four rushers, including former starter Ricky Powers, are back, Moeller will not alternate tailbacks as freely as he did last season. Wheatley is the man.

At the same time, Wheatley won't allow expectations to spiral out of control. He is not perfect. As a runner, he lacks polish, often relying on physical strength to overpower defenders. He also has a tendency to fumble; Wheatley dropped the ball five times in a late-season tie with Illinois.

"Whenever I say this, people look at me like I'm crazy, but he's still learning the position," Moeller said. "He's becoming more of a slashing-type runner, instead of running upright so much. And I want him to stay at 225 pounds, hard as a rock. I don't want him to lose any of that speed. I don't want him any bigger than he is right now."

Moeller was talking about weight, but he could have meant stature. Wheatley is as big as it gets in college football, which made those midwinter treks to the track building even more impressive.

"Any athlete will tell you, he just wants a feat to conquer," said Wheatley, who harbored Olympic track aspirations before finding stardom in football. "I've always been taught, if there's something in life you want to do, do it. Try it. Try everything. Don't ever be a quitter."

"But I guess I still didn't expect to be at this level yet."

He didn't expect to be Michigan's star tailback—yet. He didn't expect to be a Heisman Trophy candidate—yet. He didn't expect to be a roller-blading whiz, and, well, he isn't. Yet.

"Everybody laughs at me when I fall," he said of his new hobby. "But I'm getting pretty good."

Wheatley bought a pair of roller blades after watching people riding them in California after the Rose Bowl. Now, as he careens around the Michigan campus with his helmet and elbow pads on, Wheatley seems impossible to catch, impossible to stop.

Not unlike when he's on a football field. ■

DEUCE ON THE LOOSE

After subpar '92, 'ultimate weapon' Palmer hopes to play his cards right for Tide in '93

By CHARLES HOLLIS

Birmingham News

The football was spiraling toward the sideline. It was coming hard and fast and looked like a fastball over the plate to Gene Stallings, who was standing in its direct line.

Stallings, whose Alabama Crimson Tide was practicing at the Superdome before its New Year's Day date with top-ranked Miami (Fla.) in the USF&G Sugar Bowl, spotted the ball in the air about the same time he spotted wide receiver David Palmer lunging to catch it. A small boy was standing next to Stallings, and the Alabama coach was certain that Palmer would soon crash into the unsuspecting youngster.

"There's no way for David to avoid it," Stallings recalled.

Miraculously, Palmer did. With his body in midair, he was able to catch the ball with his right hand and cradle the boy in his left arm. Neither Palmer nor the boy was hurt.

"It's the most incredible display of athletic ability . . . I think I've ever seen," Stallings said. "What a talent. David Palmer is a fantastic athlete who makes things happen. The good Lord has blessed him with lots of ability and some things not everybody has."

At 5-foot-9 and 170 pounds, Palmer isn't big for a football player. But inside his body beats a big heart, the heart of perhaps Alabama's biggest game-breaker since Joe Namath and Ken Stabler played for the Tide in the 1960s.

Palmer is Alabama's ultimate offensive weapon, and a good reason why the school could repeat as national champion in 1993. His versatility enables Stallings to use him at quarterback and running back in addition to his usual duties as a flanker and kick returner. Palmer, a junior from Birmingham, likes his multi-purpose role—if not his sophomore season.

"It was a nightmare, a real bad experience," he said. "Winning the national championship was great, but I feel I let the team down. I want to make up for it in my junior year. I want to have the kind of year I didn't have last year."

Palmer entered last season as one of the top candidates to win the Heisman Trophy. An impressive freshman campaign in which he set single-season Alabama records for punt-return touchdowns (three) and punt-return yardage (409) had some people comparing him to former Notre Dame great Raghob (Rocket) Ismail, runner-up for the

like anybody, it's Eric Metcalf or Barry Sanders. They're my idols."

Unfortunately for Palmer, his 1992 campaign was not one of which idols are made. His season turned sour when Stallings was forced to suspend him for Alabama's first three games, the first for a drunk-driving charge levied against Palmer during the



"The Rocket was
as dangerous as
any player I'd
seen . . . and I
thought I'd seen
the last of the
Rocket. But
here he is
again."

Bill McCartney

Heisman in 1990.

"He's just an incredibly gifted football player," Colorado Coach Bill McCartney said after Palmer scored two touchdowns and was named Most Valuable Player in Alabama's 30-25 win over Colorado in the 1991 Blockbuster Bowl. "I thought the Rocket (a player the Buffaloes faced in two successive Orange Bowls) was as dangerous as any player I'd seen since I've been in coaching, and I thought I'd seen the last of the Rocket. But here he is again, doing the same things Ismail did."

"I know a lot of people compare me to Rocket Ismail, I guess because I return kicks and I play other positions on offense," said Palmer, who is called "Deuce" by most Tide fans because he wears the number 2. "But my style is different. I'm a little guy. If I'm

summer and the next two for a second DUI arrest that came only hours after Palmer's first one-game suspension had ended.

"I was scared to death Coach Stallings was going to kick me off the team," Palmer said. "There was more to the story than what people were reading or thinking. I don't have a drinking problem. I had a judgment problem."

Stallings considered kicking Palmer off the team for good. He decided otherwise after talking with Palmer, law enforcement officials, lawyers and a behavioral specialist who conducted a psychological evaluation of the player.

"I didn't do it because I thought it would help the team," Stallings said. "I did it because I thought it would help David Palmer. I don't have to explain the reasons why I did



If needed, flanker/kick returner David Palmer, a 5-foot-9, 170-pounder, could step in at quarterback or running back for Alabama's defending national champions.

it. I just felt it was the right thing to do for David."

Palmer returned a punt 63 yards for Alabama's only touchdown in a 13-0 victory over Louisiana Tech in his first game back. It was, however, the first of only two touchdowns Palmer scored all season, a far cry from the nine he had in 1991.

"All my life, ever since I've been playing sports, I've been used to making big plays," Palmer said. "I struggled to make something happen last year. I just never got going. It was real frustrating. I don't want to go through another year like that."

"You look at David's statistics last year and you think he had a bad year," Alabama receivers coach Woody McCorvey said. "What you don't see are all the times he helped get us a first down or into the end zone by acting as a decoy.

"No matter where David lines up, he freezes the defense. You also don't think about his blocking. It's unbelievable to watch some of the blocks he's made to help a guy get into the end zone or get a few more yards. In the Ole Miss game he hit a guy so hard the guy's headgear came off. In the South Carolina game he came all the way across the field to help Curtis Brown score. You don't think of a guy like David Palmer, who can do the things he can do, as an unselfish player. But he's very unselfish."

Despite missing three games, Palmer caught a team-high 24 passes and finished second with 297 receiving yards. But he knows he'll need bigger numbers this season if he wants to win the Heisman.

"A lot of people tell me I have a chance down the road," Palmer said. "If it happens, it happens and it'll be great. But I don't dwell

on it."

While Palmer isn't obsessed with winning the Heisman, he would like nothing more than to become the first player in Alabama's storied football history to do so. It is one way, he feels, for him to atone for his off-field conduct of a year ago.

"I feel real bad for the little kids who look up to me," Palmer said. "I want to be a positive role model, and I wasn't last year. I want to make it up to them. I want them to see that someone like me can make mistakes and then correct them. Everybody makes mistakes. Some mistakes are worse than others.

"I'd like to be the first Heisman Trophy winner at Alabama. That would be a great honor, and it's one of my goals. Even if you never reach all your goals, you need goals. Everybody needs goals."

At Birmingham's Jackson-Olin High School, Palmer did just about everything a football player possibly can do. At various times he was a quarterback, running back, wide receiver, defensive back, kicker and kick returner on a ragtag team that finished 9-2 against some of the toughest competition in the city. Palmer's 2,001 yards rushing, 1,232 yards passing and 42 touchdowns his senior year helped to make him a living legend in a football-crazy state.

"He understands the game of football so well," said Earl Cheatham, Palmer's high school coach. "When he starts running, there's no guessing. He knows where he is. Plus, he gets a total picture. He's able to make up his mind, and the moves seem to come while his brain is taking the picture."

Cheatham remembers a 45-yard touchdown run by Palmer in his senior year. After breaking a tackle in the backfield, he reversed field and zigzagged until he reached the 5-yard line. Suddenly, with two defenders bearing down on him, Palmer stopped cold, allowing the would-be tacklers to collide with each other as they shot past him. Palmer walked into the end zone.

"Sometimes I even surprise myself," Palmer said. "Sometimes when I watch a film I'm surprised at what I see myself doing."

Alabama offensive line coach Jim Fuller, who recruited Palmer out of high school, watched him work his magic for three seasons in the prep ranks.

"I got a big kick out of watching other coaches sit up in the stands and watch David on Friday nights," Fuller said. "They would see David do something they couldn't believe and look over at me to see if I was as amazed as they were."

Fuller recalled the surprised look on quarterbacks coach Mal Moore's face during Palmer's first fall scrimmage at Alabama. Moore, a former Tide player and coach of some of the best skill-position players in school history for much of the last three decades, was astonished by one run Palmer made against the first-team defense.

"David ran the last 12 yards so low to the ground," Fuller recalled, "that Mal said, 'It's like watching somebody run full speed under a table top.'"

It's Palmer's job to make Alabama fans remember the things he does on the field—not off it—in 1993. ■

KEYSTONE QUAGMIRE

'Has-been' Pitt and 'never-was' Temple turn to new coaches to combat that sinking feeling

By MICHAEL BRADLEY

Free-lance writer

Johnny Majors' trademark Tennessee drawl sounds way out of place in Steel City, U.S.A. He says "Y'all." Pittsburghers say "Yins."

"I have to work on saying 'help,' not 'hep,' now that I'm back up north," the University of Pittsburgh's new/old coach said with a laugh.

Majors laughed again and repeated the mantra of coaching newcomers. It doesn't matter if the thick accent is Southern-fried or Brooklyn-boiled. Optimism is a universal language, even for those trying to redirect once-proud programs now mired in mediocrity.

"We're undefeated, untied and unscored upon," he said. "Everything's OK until September."

★ ★ ★

Nearly 300 miles to the east, new Coach Ron Dickerson has unveiled Temple University's 1993 slogan: "It's Possible."

After a decade of football impossibility, Dickerson's optimism seems out of place. The Owls posted a 33-77 record during that period and have become one of NCAA Division I-A's softer touches. Teams can't wait to schedule them for Homecoming.

But Dickerson is undaunted. The new ones always are.

"If our slogan had been, 'We're Gonna Win,' and we put that all over town, if we didn't win, people would say, 'Yeah, right,'" Dickerson explained. "For every player, 'It's Possible' means something different."

"It boils down to how the players perceive the slogan, not necessarily how outsiders

It was the best of times.

It was the worst of times.

Scratch that. It was the
worst of times. Period.

perceive it. There's something every player in the program gets out of that slogan."

★ ★ ★

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.

Scratch that. It was the worst of times. Period.

So begins a tale of two football programs. Each reels from an extended period of neglect and mismanagement. Each enters this season with renewed hopes, dreams, slogans and the undying optimism that enters with new coaches.

And each has its mail delivered to the Big East Conference basement.

To the casual fan, the programs make a perfect marriage—two homely gridiron partners staggering together in Pennsylvania's two largest cities. Temple and Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh and Temple. East meets west in the Keystone State, and both live unhappily ever after at the bottom of the conference standings.

But despite the geographic and metropolitan similarities of the two programs, the challenges facing the teams' highly publicized new coaches are completely different.

Pitt's Johnny Majors returns to the site of his greatest glory—the 1976 national championship—after being humiliated in his cherished Tennessee home. While the Volunteer fans sang "Rocky Top," Majors was given the rocky road, forced out of his dream coaching job by administration insiders and an opportunistic assistant coach. Unemployed and despondent, Majors agreed to

tackle the considerable challenge of cleaning up the mess left by deposed Pitt coach Paul Hackett. Though not exactly a cure for depression, it is work, and Majors pledges to rekindle the fire in a program that was once the country's best. We'll see.

To the east, former Clemson defensive coordinator Ron Dickerson flies into the Owls' disheveled Philadelphia nest. Division I-A's first African American head coach in two years (two other blacks have since landed top jobs), Dickerson is faced with the task of making a winner out of a slow, weak team that is largely ignored in a rabid pro football town. He has to do it without an on-campus stadium, modern suite of offices, state-of-the-art weight room or five-star location—poor, neglected North Philadelphia. The publicity surrounding his landmark hiring can help only so much.

The new coaches' objectives are similar—win games, graduate players, build a future. Their personalities, methods and circumstances are disparate.

★ ★ ★

Lost beneath the avalanche of national publicity on recruiting day—hey, Florida State got a kicker—was a 25-man collection of high school seniors who had signed on to play football in one of Division I-A's perceived wastelands. The class of 1997 represented the first tangible results of the Ron Dickerson Era at Temple.

Surprise—it was a pretty good group. Miami isn't shaking, but some of the returnees from last year's 1-10 gang had better hit the weight room. Fast. Job security doesn't abound in North Philly these days.

In just two months, Dickerson and his staff convinced some of the best players in Pennsylvania and New Jersey that being an Owl wasn't such a bad thing. They sold the usual new-coach fare: immediate playing time, the chance to build, blah, blah, blah. But they closed the deals. All-America running back Juan Gaddy. Top-flight linebacker Alsharmond Singleton. And more.

"I think we surprised ourselves," Dickerson said. "Within the area surrounding Philadelphia, the recruiting base is tremendous. If you sat at the airport during recruiting season, you'd see a number of coaches who came in from Southern Cal, UCLA, Michigan and Notre Dame to recruit our players. We have to keep them. We have to corral them. We have to develop and cultivate that base and keep it at home. If it happens, the sleeping giant awakens."

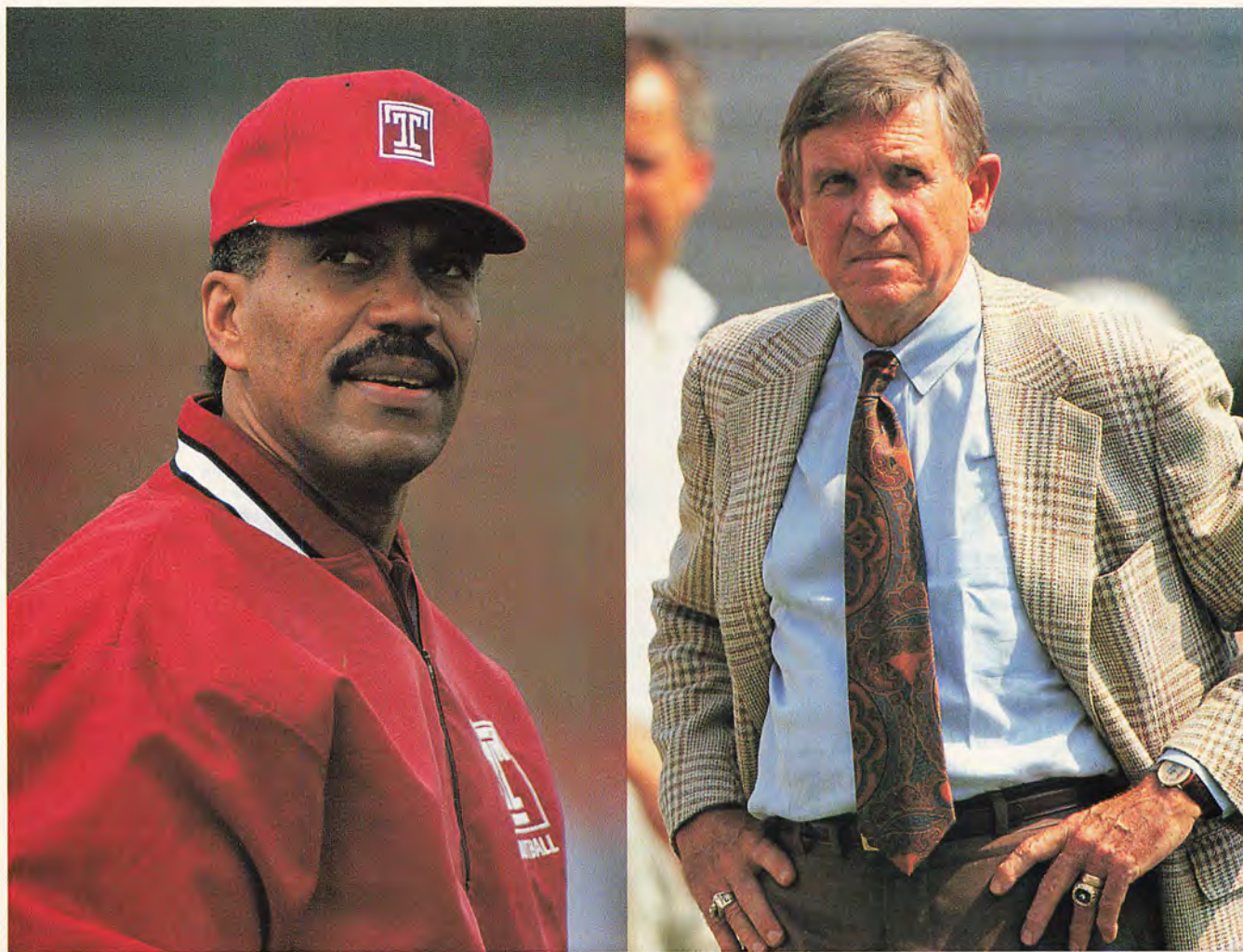
Temple's football program must have taken a pretty big bite out of some poison apple, because it has been cranking out the z's for years. The Owls have been to exactly one bowl game in the last 58 years—the insignificant and dearly departed Garden State Bowl in 1979. The decade-old promise of school President Peter Liacouras that Tem-

ple would play in the Sugar Bowl is still good for laughs in Philadelphia, where fans approach Owls games at Veterans Stadium with an enthusiasm generally reserved for root-canal work. Only when Penn State comes to town every other year does Veterans Stadium fill up—primarily with fans clad in the Nittany Lions' blue and white.

The Owls own a two-game losing streak against Akron and registered their only victory last season over Division I-AA foil Boston University. By the time last season concluded, many Philadelphians were suggesting that the Owls join Boston U. and its cronies out of the big time. While the critics and cynics ran wild, Jerry Berndt, a hero during his coaching days at Pennsylvania (four Ivy League titles) who was clearly overmatched against major-college competition (career I-A record: 17-60), was dismissed. Enter Dickerson, who had logged 20 years as an assistant at Clemson, Penn State, Colorado and other I-A locales.

"The biggest difference between the two coaching staffs is that everybody here now played and coached and won on the Division I level," said Temple senior tackle Tre Johnson, the team's lone marquee player. "The other staff was all from Division III, II and I-AA. It's hard to make that adjustment to playing the best in the country when you

Continued



As two major Pennsylvania universities seek on-field reversals, vastly different challenges confront Temple's Ron Dickerson (left) and Pitt's Johnny Majors.

KEYSTONE QUAGMIRE

have that small-college attitude."

Dickerson and his mature staff—"Our coaches average 17-20 years of experience," he said—have probably never seen anything like Temple. That's fine, since the Owl players were pretty surprised by the coaches, too. On the first day of winter drills, half of the team vomited, unable to handle a big-time workout. It's a tradition repeated across the country whenever a new coach inherits a team of softies, a sort of catharsis. Out with the bad and all that.

And so the Owls threw up. And pulled themselves out of warm beds for 6 a.m. conditioning sessions, doing the same things players at every I-A school were doing. But at least Temple was keeping up—for once. And Dickerson believes that those baby steps will turn into giant strides soon enough. It's not the usual new-coach act. Dickerson's substantial self-confidence is evident from his stare-you-down, extra-long handshake to his quiet, ever-positive responses to tough questions.

"I don't really look at the negative aspects of this situation," he said. "If I did, I wouldn't have this job, because they didn't hire me to look at things negatively. You are going to have a lot of soothsayers who want to see the worst, but I cannot worry about those things."

A soft 1993 non-conference schedule—Eastern Michigan, Akron and Army join California and seven Big East opponents—should help. This year, Dickerson's optimism and commanding personality should carry over and create a better environment for winning.

"I think if we get into the heads of the student/athletes and convince them that they're good football players, convince them that we can win, then we can win four or five games," Dickerson said. "We're equal to, if not better than, four or five teams that we play. Our players have to believe they can beat those teams."

But the Owls aren't going anywhere on belief alone. They need talent—lots of it. And attracting it to campus has not been easy lately. The school's facilities are well behind those of its league rivals.

"We don't have the facilities in other sports, and still we succeed," Temple Athletic Director Charlie Theokas said. "We have a special university, diverse in its opportunities. If a kid wants to go to school where there's a lot of green grass, he doesn't come here."

That's for sure. Temple's rough, inner-city environs are easy targets for enemy recruiters. Shoot, Syracuse's bleak, abomi-

nable-snowman winters seem attractive next to North Philadelphia's hard-scrabble streets. Within a few blocks of the Temple campus looms a nightmare landscape of boarded-up crack houses, drug dealers and economic despair. Downtown, city planners work hard to improve Philadelphia's image for tourists and conventioners. Uptown, there is plenty more work to be done. Temple itself may be an oasis, but the urban desert surrounding it is bleak and unforgiving. Even John Chaney, Temple's basketball coach, concedes that.

"Temple is not an easy sell by any means," Chaney said. "It never will be. Kids don't buy into city programs—black or white. Just going in and saying you're a black coach to a black kid doesn't work. Middle-class blacks look at rural schools. They don't even want their kids to visit city schools."

So, Dickerson fights back. He cites the

Within a few blocks of the Temple campus looms a nightmare landscape of boarded-up crack houses, drug dealers and economic despair.



Temple's campus may be an oasis, but it is surrounded by a bleak, unforgiving urban desert.

school's strong academic reputation, its diversity-is-strength faculty and student body. He sells the opportunities in the nation's fifth-largest city for Temple graduates. And he points to the makeup of the school's other sports programs. Suburban parents send their daughters to play on the school's nationally ranked lacrosse, field hockey and gymnastics teams. Why can't a 6-foot-6, 300-pound tackle hack it? Dickerson's message is simple: Try it, you'll like it.

"People outside of the university have mislabeled it without seeing what it's all about," Dickerson said. "We've had parents come on tours that have had that same perception prior to coming. And when they left, they were excited about what they saw."

Dickerson also must energize a dormant alumni base. Because the program did not compete at the Division I level from 1956-71, many middle-aged (i.e., wealthy) graduates have no identity with football. A winning season or two could bring them and their checkbooks into the fold.

One high-profile checkbook already in the fold—and it has been for some time—is that belonging to Bill Cosby, himself a former Temple player. Interestingly, Cosby played a role in the hiring of Dickerson, interviewing the would-be head coach before the hiring was completed. However, the donations haven't exactly poured in from other sources.

"The hardest job at Temple isn't being football coach, it's fund-raiser," said Bruce Ariens, coach at Temple from 1983-88 and now the offensive coordinator at Mississippi State. "But the school has an identity now, something we didn't have. The Big East is a big plus."

And so are the low expectations that Dickerson encounters. Temple isn't Alabama, so alumni and fans aren't expecting 10 victories a year and a January 1 bowl trip. "Our goals are more realistic," Theokas said. "If we go 7-4 or 8-3, that's a very good year for us. Drawing 25-30,000 people a game is realistic."

So, Dickerson sells what he can sell. The conference. The school. The chance to play. Himself. Dickerson has contributed to winning programs as an assistant and has a self-confidence that translates easily to leadership. His defensive acumen is substantial—Clemson led the nation in rushing defense in 1991 and set a school record for sacks last year. And as one of three black coaches on the I-A level, Dickerson is a newsmaker and an attention-getter. No matter how much he wants to be judged solely on his coaching, even he has to admit that there is extra pressure.

"I'm under the microscope," he said. "But I cannot change my approach. I cannot change the way I'm going to coach this football team. I have never said that I'm a black football coach. I'm a qualified head coach, and I can recruit with anyone. I've done that throughout my career."

Continued

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KEYSTONE QUAGMIRE

Skin color does not win football games, but it can influence recruits, particularly young blacks looking for a strong male influence. Dickerson is quick to add that his strong character and commitment to his players will attract recruits of any background or color. He's proven that at Clemson and Penn State.

"I doubt I would have gone to Temple if not for Coach Dickerson," promising freshman Gaddy said in February. "He was like a father figure. He just told me what he could do for me, and what I could do for the team. You can tell if somebody's being sincere or not."

But only time will tell if Dickerson can win.

★ ★ ★

When Johnny Majors arrived for work on his first day as head coach at Pitt, Act II, he didn't have to be shown around the football complex. The coaching offices were in the same place they were 16 years ago. The weight room hadn't moved. And the locker facilities were right there, too.

They hadn't moved. They hadn't changed, either. In fact, everything was just about the same as when Majors left to coach at Tennessee in early 1977, following the Panthers' national title.

Except for the success part.

"When we came here, a lot of things were old in Eastern programs, so we put in new locker rooms, got dynamic uniforms, a new weight room and new offices," Majors said. "Since then, a lot of other schools have made progress, too. It's too bad some of the bowl money and TV money wasn't put back into staying ahead. We're miles and miles away from where I'd like to see us."

Even though Jackie Sherrill continued Pitt's success during the five years following Majors' departure for Tennessee, the last decade of Panther football has been mediocre. A trio of coaches—Foge Fazio, Mike Gottfried and Paul Hackett—produced a combined 64-56-6 record, marching Pitt in place while Eastern rivals Syracuse and Penn State jetted past it and lesser lights Rutgers and West Virginia caught up.

Just as Pitt's football facilities are aging, so, too, is its gridiron image, despite the school's continued efforts to maintain a national reputation from the Majors/Sherrill years. Nevertheless, Athletic Director Oval Jaynes' decision to rehire Majors following Hackett's "resignation" wasn't merely a bow to nostalgia. Pitt football is in trouble, and Majors' mere presence isn't sufficient to fix things. He needs to deliver—like he did at Tennessee, logging a 116-62-8 record and winning three Southeastern Conference titles.

"The next few years are the most critical in Pitt football history," Majors said. "We

Continued

Ron Cooper's second interview for the Eastern Michigan head coaching position wasn't the usual "tell us about yourself" meeting. Once pleasantries had been exchanged, Cooper was handed a piece of chalk and directed to go to the blackboard.

"Show us what you know," said members of Eastern Michigan's search committee.

So, Cooper showed them. And showed them. And showed them.

"That's my strong point," Cooper said. A born teacher, no doubt.

Cooper's chalk talk impressed Eastern Michigan Athletic Director Gene Smith and school President William Shelton, who hired the 31-year-old Notre Dame assistant head coach to right the floundering Eagle program. It also proved a theory that Cooper has had about black football coaches: When given the opportunity, they will succeed.

Take Cooper, for example. He was hired in 1991 by Lou Holtz to coach the Fighting Irish secondary. One year later, he was elevated to second-in-command in Golden Dome-land. When the folks at Eastern Michigan wanted proof of his skills, Cooper was ready.

"There needs to be a fair opportunity for everybody to be a coordinator or be in charge," Cooper said. "I say this all the time, and a lot of my peers who are black coaches get mad, but when you get a chance, you had better be ready. If a coach says, 'Let's talk offense and defense,' you better be ready to get on the board and show something. People say I got the Eastern job at a young age, and I agree. But I was also ready when the opportunity arose."

Cooper joins Temple's Ron Dickerson and Wake Forest's Jim Caldwell as the sole black head coaches in NCAA Division I-A football this year. Three out of 106 is hardly a cause for celebration, but it's still a substantial improvement over last year, when no blacks were in charge. Zero. Zip. Zilch. Cooper, Dickerson and Caldwell now have the ultimate opportunities to display their coaching wares. They run the programs. They make the decisions. They win or lose. They feel the heat.

They also represent the high-water mark, at least numerically, for I-A black head coaches in any one season. Three. And that's pathetic. In a country where minority participation is stressed in everything from education to the President's Cabinet, big-time college football lags noticeably. And it took a yearlong hailstorm of criticism and charges of racism to convince three schools to hire minorities. Football factories will let blacks play running back, linebacker and even quarterback, but they won't let blacks run the show.

"I think anything over the past year is an improvement, and we have to look at this as a positive," said Rudy Washington, president of the Black Coaches Association and

men's basketball coach at Drake. "The test is, whether the universities in question are going to make a further commitment to winning. It takes more than a qualified coach."

Caldwell, Cooper and Dickerson aren't walking into model programs with long and storied winning traditions. No, sir. Temple and Eastern Michigan—which will face each other September 9 at Ypsilanti, Mich.—were 1-10 last year, and even though Wake Forest won the Independence Bowl, the Demon Deacons can hardly be classified as a powerhouse. The three schools are committed to updating stadiums, facilities and equipment, but none will ever be confused with Miami (Fla.), Alabama or Michigan.

It has been that way throughout the short

Blacks hold three jobs out of 106 in I-A ranks

history of black head coaches in I-A football. Only six roamed the sidelines before this year, and none registered a winning record during his tenure—the coaches' combined record was 90-224-6, a reflection of the programs, not the coaches, in question. Need proof? Combined, how many bowl games have Wichita State, Ohio University, UNLV, Long Beach State and Northwestern ever played? Three. Count 'em, three.

"This is nothing new for black people in this country," Nebraska receivers coach Ron Brown said. "In the movie industry, the media and other businesses, blacks only receive certain jobs. We're always given challenges that we have to fight through. Nothing is handed to us with plush carpeting."

"Anytime you're breaking new ground, you're going to have to start at places that don't feel they have a lot to lose. But I give the universities who hired black coaches all the credit in the world."

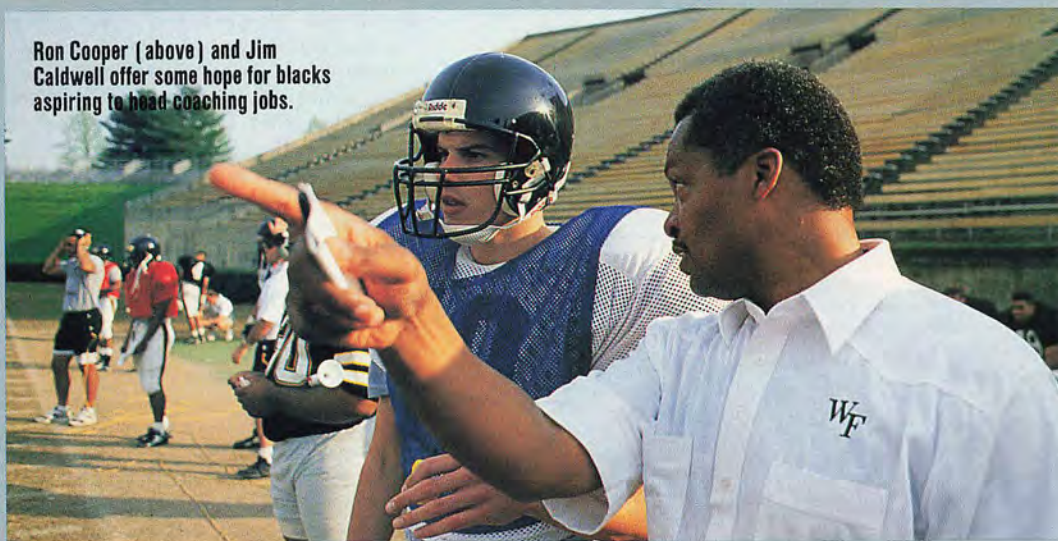
When Jim Harkema resigned just four games into last season after logging a 41-57-5 record in 10 seasons at Eastern Michigan, no one said the school had made a mistake hiring a white coach. But you can bet that Shelton and Smith will catch heat for hiring a black leader should Cooper fail to energize the Eagles in the next two seasons. The same applies at Temple and Wake Forest.

"I really think that people are saying, 'OK, you've got the job, let's see what you can do,'" Cooper said. "People are saying Eastern Michigan made a mistake."

That perception comes with the job, and



Ron Cooper (above) and Jim Caldwell offer some hope for blacks aspiring to head coaching jobs.



Caldwell, Cooper and Dickerson realize it. So, while these three go about the business of coaching football, college presidents, athletic directors, alumni, fans and media will be scrutinizing them. Optimists, like Colorado defensive-line coach Bob Simmons, hope this is a new beginning, that qualified black candidates will be considered for—and receive—jobs after this season, next season and the next.

"I hope this is a sign of things to come," said Simmons, who has more than 20 years of coaching experience but has never interviewed for a head coaching spot or been a coordinator. "The men who received the jobs this year are very deserving, and their opportunities came partially out of the awareness generated in the last year. Hopefully, the doors will swing open for other African American coaches."

Pessimists counter that those doing the hiring consider this a test for black coaches. If they don't succeed, why hire any others?

"The future hiring of black coaches shouldn't be based solely on whether we do a good job," Caldwell said. "The antithesis doesn't happen. No one has said, 'We're not going to hire another white football coach because his predecessor didn't do well.'"

No, but hiring a white coach has never rankled alumni or threatened fund-raising. In 1989, when Nebraska's Brown turned down the top job at Division I-AA Brown University, his alma mater, he did so in part because of alumni dissatisfaction with university President Vartan Gregorian's deci-

sion. This at a school that had captured just one Ivy League title—ever.

But Brown University shouldn't be singled out as the bad guy in this. Programs all over America are guilty of passing over qualified black coaches for top spots, coordinator jobs and position responsibilities. Only 14 percent of the 1,166 I-A coaching spots were filled by minorities in 1992, and only eight of last year's 212 I-A defensive and offensive coordinators were blacks. Football lags well behind Division I basketball, where 55 black head coaches can be found among 300 schools. Of course, only 37 of those are at the 270 schools considered predominantly white, but the hoop numbers are significantly higher than those for football.

to the pros each year," Dickerson said. "I'm talking about guys who are ready to be coordinators. And the Black Coaches Association did a survey of I-A schools last year, and of the 87 who responded, we found only 11 black graduate assistants.

"They're not coming up from the bottom. They're being sucked out of the middle, and they're not at the top. I really believe in five years—maybe less—there will be fewer black coaches than there are now. It's going to be a problem—a major problem."

So, Caldwell, Cooper and Dickerson find themselves in an unexpected position these days. As head coaches, they are now part of the same old-boy network they have criticized. When the telephone rings, it just

might be another coach asking them where to find a young black assistant. Or, it could be a fellow black coach looking for an opportunity.

"I have become part of the good-old-boy network, which is good," Dickerson said. "But it's also tough, because I represent the whole (black coaching) community."

Though they may relish their positions in the vanguard of black coaches, all three men would rather just coach football. "I've never said that I'm a black football coach," Dickerson said. "I'm a qualified head coach."

None comes to his position without significant credentials. Dickerson has 21 years of coaching experience and was defensive coordinator at Clemson and secondary coach at Penn State before going to Temple; Caldwell spent the last seven years at Penn State, coaching quarterbacks and directing the Nittany Lions' passing game; Cooper earned a reputation for a sharp football mind and energetic and highly successful recruiting during his eight seasons as an assistant.

All look forward to the day when they will have to field questions on why they called a draw play on third and six, or what defense they should have been in on that 80-yard touchdown pass play by an opponent—instead of queries about their race. To them, they are qualified, talented football coaches who happen to be black, just like Penn State's Joe Paterno happens to be Italian. Unfortunately, there are many who don't look at it that way. They believe the pressure is on, and Caldwell, Cooper and Dickerson had better produce.

"We're not looking at the won-lost record," said Washington, speaking for the black coaches' organization. "It's OK to fail. We don't want those three guys to think they're carrying the weight of the black race on their shoulders. Those guys are professionals. But will the boosters welcome them, and will the money keep coming in?"

Those are good questions. If the answers are affirmative, then we'll know we're truly making progress.

—MICHAEL BRADLEY

"It's happened in basketball, and it can happen in football," Cooper said. "Kids—black and white—will respond to somebody who will make them a better ballplayer."

Players may respond, but alumni and fans might not. And if fund-raising suffers, the presidents who made tough decisions to hire black coaches might face other difficult choices.

"Presidents have to be inspired to have courage to do the right thing, no matter what the alumni say or what the booster dollars say," Brown said. "Many presidents want to do the right thing—hire an excellent candidate who is also black—but because of their fears of the alumni and boosters, they seek a comfort zone."

Accordingly, the new black coaches are starting from a deep hole. But at least they are starting, and that's something. Still, Dickerson is worried that this year's good beginning may fizzle quickly. Part of his trepidation is due to the well-entrenched old-boy network that prevails in I-A football, but another reason for his concern is the dwindling pool of candidates.

The 1991 decision to drop the number of graduate assistants on each staff from four to two has taken away a significant entree for young, black coaches. Combined with the National Football League's recent willingness to hire blacks (black assistants increased from 37 to 66 from 1989 to 1992), that leaves fewer coaches from which to choose.

"We lose four to six mature black coaches

KEYSTONE QUAGMIRE

need a vision, a near-term to long-term plan for the future. We have to improve in the next couple years and carry the program into the 21st Century in a position to win.

"This is, without question, the biggest challenge of my coaching career."

Undeniably, Majors is not back at Pitt by choice. In his perfect, orange-and-white world, Majors would be smiling broadly about his young Tennessee Volunteers and musing about a national championship. No, Majors returns to Pitt confused, dejected and—he believes—betrayed. In a bizarre series of events that began with a promised six-year contract extension and ended with a forced resignation, Majors went from holding his dream job to looking for work. "It was as much betrayal and deception as you could imagine," he said.

Had Majors not kept an appointment to see his cardiologist on August 24, Pitt would be entering its watershed years with a different coach. Tennessee Athletic Director Doug Dickey told Majors that a contract extension would be on the coach's desk for signing the next day. But while at the doctor, Majors discovered he needed quintuple-bypass heart surgery. Feeling secure in his position at the school, Majors scheduled the operation for the next day.

Big mistake.

"The last thing I said to my wife and attorney was to make sure they told Doug Dickey to keep that contract on my desk," Majors said. "It never got there."

While Majors recuperated, assistant Phil Fulmer led the Volunteers to a 5-0 start. Majors returned and dropped games to Alabama and South Carolina. Suddenly, the six-year offer dropped to four years. Then two years. Then, it was gone. President Joe Johnson came out against Majors, and Dickey asked Majors to resign—but to remain part of the Tennessee family as an assistant athletic director. Majors was stunned. Hurt. Enraged. A \$600,000 buyout offer took away none of the sting.

"(Dickey) told me coaching was not an option, but that they wanted me to stay and not separate from the school," Majors said. "I said, 'Are you kidding me? After you made a commitment to me, and I made a commitment to you? This is unconscionable and is mental harassment.'"

So, Majors went home to contemplate the end of a dream. He had come back to Tennessee in '77 as a savior, a former Volunteer star whose father coached high school and college ball in the state until age 65. He wanted to end his coaching days on Rocky Top. Instead, he was leaving his Shangri-La.

"I don't think there's any question that

Phil Fulmer had a great, burning desire to have my job," the 58-year-old Majors said. "There's no question he wanted it very badly.

"I don't know who cocked the hammer, but there were four to six key people who thought I should step aside. Somebody was feeding Doug Dickey bad information that coaches and players were threatening to leave if I stayed. I've never lost a good player in my life. It was a very traumatic situa-

tion."

Things looked bleak, and Majors dropped into a deep funk. Of course, about 500 miles to the north, another depressing scenario was unfolding, too.

Pitt was free-falling to a 3-9 record, adept on offense, but inept on defense. The team lost several games in the fourth quarter, and it was evident that Hackett, an offensive genius in the pros, was not head coach material. Pitt ranked seventh in the Big East—ahead of only Temple—in total defense in 1991 and '92. And despite leading the league in total offense last season, turnovers and poor execution relegated the Panthers to seventh in points scored.

"Our overall performance on the field in 1990, '91 and '92 continued to decline," Jaynes said. "People began to lose faith in the program, and we had a reduction in revenue because of the poor performance."

So Jaynes called Majors and hired the coach December 11. "He brings instant credibility back to the University of Pittsburgh," Jaynes said.

Within two months, Majors had assembled a staff and lured 17 high school recruits to campus. "If we can get a couple of players out of that group, great," Majors said. "It was a makeshift, patchwork recruiting job at best."

Some talent returns, but the Panthers will be young, and their ranks will be thin.

Majors is realistic about the team's short-term chances. He knows the difference between good and bad teams, and he won't try to fool the Pitt faithful with false promises of quick glory. With Miami (Fla.), Ohio State, Syracuse and Notre Dame on this year's schedule, progress on the field will be slow. Majors must bring back the discipline, commitment and enthusiasm that waned during Hackett's tenure and convince recruits that he isn't just a reclamation project who has returned to enjoy his coaching golden years.

"My physical condition is great, and my morale is 100 percent better than it was when I came here in December," Majors said. "I have something to do. I'm back coaching, and I feel a sense of vitality."

Majors hasn't won a game yet, but his arrival has sparked the Pitt community. Jaynes reports that interest among students, faculty and alumni has soared. Panther clubs all around the country are clamoring for visits from Majors, and plans are being drawn up to improve the facilities.

Majors, however, is realistic.

"The bad news is that we don't have much experience, and we are overscheduled," Majors said. "The good news is that we have more young players than old ones."

"We had some outstanding years here from 1973-77 and some excellent teams. Pitt was one of the most respected programs in America. The financial support of the Golden Panthers (Pitt's athletic booster club) improved, and things were going well. A lot of that has gone by the wayside."

Majors wants to get it back. And Panther fans look for a 1970s-style revival. ■

"This is,
without question,
the biggest
challenge of my
coaching career."

Johnny Majors



Pitt fans are hoping that Johnny Majors (top) can deliver his old magic where Paul Hackett (left, center), Foge Fazio (right, center) and Mike Gottfried fielded so-so teams.

New QBs will be par for the course in the ACC

By DOUG DOUGHTY

Roanoke Times & World-News

Anyone who ventured out to football practice last spring likely would have said "Who's he?" when asking about the people who figure to be the starting quarterbacks in the Atlantic Coast Conference this fall.

No fewer than four of the league's nine teams will enter the 1993 season with a quarterback who has never started a college game.

Maryland's John Kaleo, the ACC's total-offense leader last year, is gone. Virginia's Bobby Goodman, the league leader in passing efficiency, is gone, too. Say goodbye, too, to Georgia Tech's Shawn Jones, the ACC's all-time total-offense leader. Terry Jordan of North Carolina State and Keith West of Wake Forest also have departed after leading their teams into bowl games last year.

The only consolation most ACC coaches have is the knowledge that they are not alone when it comes to having inexperienced quarterbacks.

Florida State's Charlie Ward, the league's Player of the Year in 1992, is back, but he sat out spring practice after undergoing surgery on his left (non-throwing) shoulder. Shoulder surgery also kept North Carolina's Mike Thomas out of spring drills.

League favorite Florida State, in all likelihood, will be the only ACC team with a quarterback who started more than six games last year.

"In looking at the teams in the preseason, I think that's a big question: 'How quickly can some of these young guys mature?'" Georgia Tech Coach Bill Lewis said. "And, 'How do the people who surround the quarterback pick up the slack?'"

Lewis' own likely starting quarterback, Donnie Davis, threw all of two passes last season.

It may be awhile before some coaches decide on a starter. Strong-armed Patrick Sapp has moved ahead of Richard Moncrief at Clemson; Joe Pickens, a transfer from Ohio State, is pushing Spence Fischer at Duke; Jason Stanicek—not Thomas—has started 12 of North Carolina's last 15 regular-season games.

"If you had told me last year that Kaleo would complete 30 passes in his first game (as a starter), I'd have been like, 'Phew,'" Maryland Coach Mark Duffner said. "You're basically hoping (new quarterbacks) can execute a few things and just get the snap count right."

1 FLORIDA STATE

Coach: Bobby Bowden (154-45-3, 17 years; 227-77-3 overall, 27 years).

1992 record: 11-1 (beat Nebraska in Orange Bowl). ACC: 8-0/1st.

Key losses: Robbie Baker, C; John Davis, SS; Dan Footman, DE; Leon Fowler, FS; Reggie Freeman, LB; Marvin Jones, LB (declared for NFL draft); Carl Simpson, DE; Robert Stevenson, OT; John Wimberly, P.

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. FLORIDA STATE
2. NORTH CAROLINA STATE
3. NORTH CAROLINA
4. CLEMSON
5. GEORGIA TECH
6. VIRGINIA
7. MARYLAND
8. DUKE
9. WAKE FOREST

Starters returning: Offense (9): Marvin Ferrell, T, 6-6/280, Sr.; William Floyd, FB, 6-0/238, Jr.; Sean Jackson, TB, 6-2/222, Sr.; Lonnie Johnson, TE, 6-3/240, Sr.; Kez McCorvey, WR, 6-0/180, Jr.; Patrick McNeil, G, 6-3/270, Jr.; Lewis Tyre, G, 6-5/266, Soph.; Tamarick Vanover, WR, 6-1/210, Soph.; Charlie Ward, QB, 6-1/185, Sr. **Defense (5):** Clifton Abraham, CB, 5-9/185, Jr.; Ken Alexander, LB, 6-4/240, Sr.; Derrick Brooks, LB, 6-1/225, Jr.; Toddrick McIntosh, NG (will move to E), 6-3/270, Sr.; Corey Sawyer, CB, 5-11/165, Jr. **Kickers (1):** Dan Mowrey, K, 5-11/185, Jr.

Other key returnees: Derrick Alexander, DE, Soph.; Clyde Allen, TB, Sr.; Devin Bush, SS, Soph.; Richard Coes, FS, Sr.; Chris Cowart, LB, Jr.; Zack Crockett, FB, Sr.; O'Mar Ellison, WR, Jr.; Matt Frier, WR, Sr.; Corey Fuller, CB, Sr.; Steve Gilmer, FS, Jr.; Billy Glenn, TE, Jr.; Alonzo Horner, LB, Sr.; Danny Kanell, QB, Soph.; Kevin Knox, WR, Sr.



Full speed ahead: Sean Jackson will help Florida State attempt to establish a power running game.

Juan Laureano, OT, Soph.; Tiger McMillon, TB, Jr.; Todd Rebol, LB, Soph.; James Roberson, LB, Jr.; Clay Shiver, C, Soph.; Eric Smith, LB, Jr.; Marquette Smith, TB, Soph. (RS).

Top newcomers: Harold Battles, CB, Fr. (RS); Scott Bentley, K/P, Fr.; Daryl Bush, LB, Fr.; Samuel Cowart, LB, Fr.; Larry Fleming, G, Fr. (RS); Todd Fordham, OT, Fr. (RS); Wayne Messam, WR, Fr. (RS); Philip Riley, WR, Soph. (JC); Connell Spain, NG, Fr. (RS); Clarence Williams, FB, Fr.

Schedule: Kansas (Kickoff Classic at East Rutherford, N.J.), Aug. 28; at Duke, Sept. 4; Clemson, Sept. 11; at North Carolina, Sept. 18; Georgia Tech, Oct. 2; Miami (Fla.), Oct. 9; Virginia, Oct. 16; Wake Forest, Oct. 30; at Maryland, Nov. 6; at Notre Dame, Nov. 13; North Carolina State, Nov. 20; at Florida, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Seminoles.
Site: Tallahassee, Fla.

Outlook: A year ago, many people looked at the Seminoles' ACC schedule (four 1991 bowl teams on the road), and wondered whether they could go undefeated in the conference. Nobody wonders if they can do it a second time.

Offensive strengths: After going to their "fast break" offense late last year with quarterback Charlie Ward in the shotgun formation, the Seminoles scored 184 points in their last three regular-season games. Sophomore Tamarick Vanover is a threat to score any time he catches the ball.

Offensive weaknesses: Although Florida State led the ACC with 26 rushing touchdowns, no Seminole back had more than one 100-yard rushing game in the regular season. The lack of a power running game was very evident in Florida State's 19-16 loss to Miami (Fla.).

Defensive strengths: Florida State's top three cornerbacks—Corey Sawyer, Clifton Abraham and Corey Fuller—are as good as it gets in this league. Derrick Brooks is the Seminoles' next great linebacker.

Defensive weaknesses: It will be hard to replace inside linebacker Marvin Jones, who skipped his final year of eligibility for the riches of the NFL. Two other high draft picks, linemen Carl Simpson and Dan Footman, will be appreciated now that they're gone.

Special teams: Missed field goals against Miami have cost Florida State a chance at winning the national championship the last two years. Freshman Scott Bentley was designated as the No. 1 place-kicker when he signed with Florida State, but junior Dan Mowrey had a good spring. Vanover averaged 51.6 yards on eight kickoff returns; Sawyer led the ACC in punt returns.

Key to success: Keeping Ward healthy. He is expected to recover fully from surgery on his left (non-throwing) shoulder, but he did miss spring practice. With an able-bodied Ward, breaks may determine the Seminoles' fate.

Sure sign of trouble: A cynic might say another loss to Miami, but the Seminoles' trip to Notre Dame in mid-November looms awfully large.

Coach Bobby Bowden says: "We won two (ACC) games last year that we should

Continued

TSN

PRESEASON ALL-ATLANTIC COAST TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Charlie
Ward,
QB, Florida State

DEFENSE



Derrick
Brooks,
LB, Florida State

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

Scott Milanovich, QB, Maryland

DEFENSE:

Jimmy Clements, DB, Georgia Tech

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	TAMARICK VANOVER, Florida State	6-1/210	Soph.
WR	TODD DIXON, Wake Forest	5-11/173	Sr.
TE	AARON MUNDY, Virginia	6-6/248	Sr.
T	GEORGE HEGAMIN, N.C. State	6-7/332	Soph.
T	CURTIS PARKER, North Carolina	6-3/288	Sr.
C	MICHAEL CHEEVER, Georgia Tech	6-4/265	Soph.
G	MARK DIXON, Virginia	6-4/283	Sr.
G	STACY SEEGARS, Clemson	6-4/320	Sr.
QB	CHARLIE WARD, Florida State	6-1/185	Sr.
RB	RODNEY BLUNT, Clemson	5-10/200	Sr.
RB	MARK MASON, Maryland	5-8/191	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	BRENTSON BUCKNER, Clemson	6-2/300	Sr.
DL	CARL REEVES, N.C. State	6-4/219	Jr.
DL	AUSTIN ROBBINS, North Carolina	6-6/287	Sr.
LB	DERRICK BROOKS, Florida State	6-1/225	Jr.
LB	TYLER LAWRENCE, N.C. State	6-5/240	Sr.
LB	MARLON WILLIAMS, Georgia Tech	6-2/209	Sr.
LB	DAMIEN COVINGTON, N.C. State	6-1/228	Jr.
DB	COREY SAWYER, Florida State	5-11/165	Jr.
DB	BRACEY WALKER, North Carolina	5-11/185	Sr.
DB	CLIFTON ABRAHAM, Florida State	5-9/185	Jr.
DB	COREY FULLER, Florida State	5-11/192	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	NELSON WELCH, Clemson	5-8/182	Jr.
P	MIKE THOMAS, North Carolina	6-2/222	Soph.
AP	TAMARICK VANOVER, Florida State	6-1/210	Soph.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	TERRY SMITH, Clemson	6-1/200	Sr.
WR	COREY HOLLIDAY, North Carolina	6-3/207	Sr.
TE	GREG DeLONG, North Carolina	6-3/234	Jr.
T	STEVE INGRAM, Maryland	6-5/283	Jr.
T	JIM REID, Virginia	6-7/305	Sr.
C	TODD WARD, N.C. State	6-2/255	Sr.
G	PATRICK McNEIL, Florida State	6-3/270	Jr.
G	SHAWN HOCKER, North Carolina	6-4/274	Sr.
QB	MIKE THOMAS, North Carolina	6-2/222	Soph.
RB	JERROD WASHINGTON, Virginia	6-1/209	Jr.
RB	WILLIAM FLOYD, Florida State	6-0/238	Jr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	JOHN AKINS, N.C. State	6-4/278	Sr.
DL	MARK KRICHBAUM, Virginia	6-6/272	Jr.
DL	DAVID WAFLE, Duke	6-6/270	Sr.
LB	TIM JONES, Clemson	6-1/220	Jr.
LB	BERNARDO HARRIS, North Carolina	6-2/223	Sr.
LB	KEN ALEXANDER, Florida State	6-4/240	Sr.
LB	P.J. KILLIAN, Virginia	6-3/234	Sr.
DB	DARNELL STEPHENS, Clemson	6-0/224	Jr.
DB	MARCUS COLEMAN, Georgia Tech	5-9/164	Sr.
DB	KEITH LYLE, Virginia	6-2/204	Sr.
DB	DEWAYNE WASHINGTON, N.C. State	6-0/185	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	TRIPP PIGNETTI, North Carolina	5-10/202	Sr.
P	NELSON WELCH, Clemson	5-8/182	Jr.

have lost. It's going to happen. We know we're going to lose a conference game. It's the strongest (conference) I know of, top to bottom."

2 N.C. STATE

Coach: Dick Sheridan (52-29-2, 7 years; 121-52-4 overall, 15 years).

1992 record: 9-3-1 (lost to Florida in Gator Bowl).

ACC: 6-2/2nd.

Key losses: Neal Auer, TE; Anthony Barbour, TB; Keith Battle, LB (declared for NFL draft); Mike Gee, OG; Terry Jordan, QB; Tim Kilpatrick, P; Reggie Lawrence, SE; Ricky Logo, MG; Greg Manior, FB; David Merritt, LB; Mike Reid, S (declared for NFL draft); Sebastian Savage, CB; Ricky Turner, S.

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Ray Griffis, FL, 5-9/168, Sr.; George Hegamin, T, 6-7/332, Soph.; Shawn Johnson, G, 6-1/266, Sr.; Eric Taylor, T, 6-4/271, Sr.; Todd Ward, C, 6-2/255, Sr. **Defense (5):** John Akins, T, 6-4/278, Sr.; Damien Covington, LB, 6-1/228, Jr.; Tyler Lawrence, LB, 6-5/240, Sr.; Carl Reeves, T, 6-4/219, Jr.; Dewayne Washington, CB, 6-0/185, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Steve Videtich, K, 6-2/200, Jr.

Other key returns: Darryl Beard, MG, Sr.; Geoff Bender, QB, Jr.; Eric Counts, MG, Jr.; Gary Downs, TB, Sr.; Ledel George, FB, Sr.; Eddie Goines, FL, Jr.; Terry Harvey, QB, Soph. (RS); Chris Hennie-Roed, OG, Soph.; Robert Hinton, SE, Sr.; Loren Pinkney, LB, Sr.; Carlos Pruitt, LB, Soph.; William Strong, CB, Jr.

Top newcomers: Larry Austin, FS, Fr. (RS); Ricky Bell, SS, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Purdue, Sept. 4; at Wake Forest, Sept. 11; North Carolina, Sept. 25; at Clemson, Oct. 2; at Texas Tech, Oct. 9; Marshall, Oct. 16; Georgia Tech, Oct. 23; Virginia, Oct. 30; at Duke, Nov. 6; Maryland, Nov. 13; at Florida State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Wolfpack.

Site: Raleigh, N.C.

A programs to play in a bowl game in each of the last five seasons, and it did so without the benefit of winning a conference championship. Both streaks are likely to continue.

Offensive strengths: The return of four



Packing a punch: Thanks to players like Tyler Lawrence, North Carolina State will have a strong group of linebackers.

starters solidifies the line, which was thought to be a problem area at the start of last season. Eddie Goines, Robert Hinton and Ray Griffis are potential game-breaking receivers.

Offensive weaknesses: Anthony Barbour has departed after becoming the first Wolfpack runner in nine years to rush for more than 1,000 yards. With the capable Greg Manior (634 yards) gone, too, N.C. State does not have a running back who ran for 200 yards last season.

Defensive strengths: Carl Reeves was one of the lightest defensive tackles in the country in 1992, but there was nothing small about his numbers: 20 tackles for losses, including 10½ sacks. Inside linebacker Damien Covington is the ACC's top returning tackler.

Defensive weaknesses: Having to find replacements for Sebastian Savage and Ricky Turner was tough enough; the news that two-time All-ACC selection Mike Reid was passing up his final year of eligibility to turn pro means a complete rebuilding job is needed in the secondary.

Special teams: Ledel George needs only 27 yards to break the ACC record for career punt-return yardage. He would have done it last year if not for an injury that kept him out of three games. A replacement for punter Tim Kilpatrick needs to surface.

Key to success: New people in the secondary and at quarterback playing well.

Sure sign of trouble: A poor start. The Wolfpack traditionally plays well early in the season, and that will be a necessity with North Carolina and Clemson among the first

Outlook: N.C. State is one of 11 Division I-

four opponents.

Coach Dick Sheridan says: "The consistency has been there, yet we're not at the level we've been seeking. The last two years, we've been one bowl game away from the Top 10."

3 NORTH CAROLINA

Coach: Mack Brown (24-31-1, 5 years; 41-59-1 overall, 9 years).

1992 record: 9-3 (beat Mississippi State in Peach Bowl). ACC: 5-3/3rd.

Key losses: J.R. Boldin, NG; Curt Brown, DT; Mike Faulkerson, FB; Rondell Jones, FS; Randy Jordan, TB; Natrone Means, TB (declared for NFL draft); Randall Parsons, C; Jonathan Perry, LB; Thomas Smith, CB; Tommy Thigpen, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Ethan Albright, T, 6-6/262, Sr.; Bucky Brooks, FL, 6-1/184, Sr.; Greg DeLong, TE, 6-3/234, Jr.; Scott Falise, G, 6-3/261, Sr.; Shawn Hocker, G, 6-4/274, Sr.; Corey Holliday, SE, 6-3/207, Sr.; Curtis Parker, T, 6-3/288, Sr.; Jason Stanicek, QB, 6-0/186, Jr. (may share position again with Mike Thomas). **Defense (5):** Sean Crocker, CB, 5-10/192, Sr.; Bernardo Harris, LB, 6-2/223, Sr.; Austin Robbins, T, 6-6/287, Sr.; Rick Steinbacher, LB, 6-2/234, Sr.; Bracey Walker, SS (will move to FS), 5-11/185, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Tripp Pignetti, K, 5-10/202, Sr.; Mike Thomas, QB/P, 6-2/222, Soph.

Other key returnees: Kevin Addis, SS, Soph.; Russell Babb, OG, Soph.; Troy Barnett, NG, Sr.; Greg Black, DT, Soph.; Sean Boyd, SS, Soph.; Pat Conneely, C, Soph.; William Henderson, FB, Jr.; Jimmy Hitchcock, CB, Jr.; Curtis Johnson, TB, Soph.; Marcus Jones, DT, Soph.; Fuzzy Lee, CB, Soph.; Malcolm Marshall, FB, Jr.; Scott Overbeck, OG, Soph.; Kerry Sharpe, OT, Jr.; Tim Smith, CB, Jr.; Oscar Sturgis, LB, Jr.; Eric Thomas, FS, Soph.

Top newcomers: Leon Johnson, TB, Fr. (RS); Maurice McGregor, TB, Fr. (RS); Andre Purvis, NG, Fr. (RS); Rick Terry, DT, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Southern California (Disneyland Pigskin Classic at Anaheim, Calif.), Aug. 29; Ohio University, Sept. 4; Maryland, Sept. 11; Florida State, Sept. 18; at North Carolina State, Sept. 25; Texas-El Paso, Oct. 2; Wake Forest, Oct. 9; at Georgia Tech, Oct. 16; at Virginia, Oct. 23; Clemson, Nov. 6; at Tulane, Nov. 13; Duke, Nov. 26.

Nickname: Tar Heels.

Site: Chapel Hill, N.C.

Outlook: The decision by running back Natrone Means to apply for the NFL draft after his junior season has dampened the Tar Heels' prospects, but bowl games should be the rule, not the exception, for this program.

Offensive strengths: Although time-sharing prevented either Jason Stanicek or Mike Thomas from amassing big numbers, both quarterbacks are talented and experienced. Corey Holliday, Bucky Brooks and tight end Greg DeLong are three quality receivers.

Offensive weaknesses: It's inconceivable that the Tar Heels, who have had players rush for 1,000 yards in a season an NCAA-record 21 times, would ever be hurting for a tailback. But they are. The departure of Means and Randy Jordan puts a lot of pressure on unproven sophomore Curtis Johnson.

Defensive strengths: Free safety Bracey Walker is an impact player, blocking two punts and returning one 41 yards for a touchdown in the Tar Heels' 21-17 victory over Mississippi State in the Peach Bowl. Outside linebacker Bernardo Harris showed star potential as a junior.

Defensive weaknesses: North Carolina has had a stopper at inside linebacker in each of the last two years in Dwight Hollier and Tommy Thigpen and needs to find another.



Is this the year? Rodney Blunt, Clemson's leading rusher the last two years, is looking for his first 1,000-yard season.

The loss of three players in the secondary is a concern.

Special teams: Thomas continued to lead the ACC in punting even while starting four games at quarterback. He may continue to do both.

Key to success: With Means around, Thomas and Stanicek didn't need to take many risks on offense. Whoever plays quarterback in '93 must gamble a bit more. Thomas, in particular, has the potential to be spectacular.

Sure sign of trouble: Another loss to N.C. State. North Carolina has lost five straight games and six of seven to its cross-state rival.

Coach Mack Brown says: "We would like to be in the Top 10 and work toward winning the conference championship. To be in the conference championship in this league puts you in the national picture as well."

4 CLEMSON

Coach: Ken Hatfield (24-10-1, 3 years; 105-59-2 overall, 14 years).

1992 record: 5-6. ACC: 3-5/7th.

Key losses: Norris Brown, CB; Jeff Fortner, OG; Eric Geter, CB; Ty Gibson, TE; Les Hall, OT; Rudy Harris, FB; John Harris, C; Kenzil Jackson, LB; Robert O'Neal, FS; Larry Ryans, WR; Ashley Sheppard, LB; Wayne Simmons, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Rodney Blunt, TB, 5-10/200, Sr.; Brent LeJeune, T, 6-3/306, Sr.; Richard Moncrief, QB, 6-1/200, Sr.; Stacy Seegars, G, 6-4/320, Sr.; Terry Smith, SE, 6-1/200, Sr. **Defense (5):** Brentson Buckner, T, 6-2/300, Sr.; Carlos Curry, NG, 6-2/275, Soph.; Warren Forney, T, 6-3/290, Jr.; Tim Jones, LB, 6-1/220, Jr.; Darnell Stephens, SS, 6-0/224, Jr. **Kickers (1):** Nelson Welch, K/P, 5-8/182, Jr.

Other key returnees: Dwayne Bryant, FL, Sr.; Derek Burnette, LB, Soph.; Brian Dawkins, DB, Soph.; Andre Humphrey, CB, Soph.; Patrick Sapp, QB, Soph.

Top newcomers: Amel Jackson, TB, Fr.; Emory Smith, FB, Fr. (RS); Antwuan Wyatt, WR/RB, Fr. **Schedule:** UNLV, Sept. 4; at Florida State, Sept. 11; Georgia Tech, Sept. 25; North Carolina State, Oct.

2; at Duke, Oct. 9; Wake Forest, Oct. 16; East Tennessee State, Oct. 23; Maryland, Oct. 30; at North Carolina, Nov. 6; Virginia, Nov. 13; at South Carolina, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Tigers.

Site: Clemson, S.C.

Outlook: Seven home games should help the Tigers rebound from their first losing season since 1976. The off year prevented them from going to a bowl game for the first time, when eligible, since 1980. They should go to another this year.

Offensive strengths: Guard Stacy Seegars is a good man to run behind as Clemson seeks its eighth ACC rushing title in nine years. Rodney Blunt, the Tigers' leading rusher the last two years, is looking for his first 1,000-yard season. Patrick Sapp, a superb athlete, someday could become the first Clemson quarterback to play in the NFL in a long time.

Offensive weaknesses: The Tigers seem to lack an offensive philosophy. After passing for more than 200 yards in consecutive games last year, they threw for just 26 yards in a 24-13 season-ending loss to South Carolina. Using three different starting quarterbacks probably didn't help. Except for Seegars, the line isn't awesome.

Defensive strengths: Brentson Buckner became a dominant player (18 tackles for losses) after moving from noseguard to tackle seven games into the season. Clemson led the ACC with a school-record 46 sacks.

Defensive weaknesses: The Tigers came out of spring practice with freshmen or sophomores manning seven of the top eight spots in the secondary. Of course, considering pass-happy Maryland and South Carolina threw for a combined 714 yards in the final two games of 1992, any change is an improvement.

Special teams: The Tigers have the ACC's best kicker in junior Nelson Welch, who led the league in scoring and finished second in Division I-A with 22 field goals. He also averaged 40.1 yards per punt.

Key to success: More consistency. Few programs of Clemson's stature played as many true freshmen (13) as the Tigers did, and that youth was reflected in an inability to play two good games—or sometimes two good halves—in succession.

Sure sign of trouble: The youngsters start making a lot of mistakes again.

Coach Ken Hatfield says: "To be successful, we have to have some success early. We have good young talent, and that youth needs positive reinforcement to show them that things they have been coached to do will win ball games."

5 GEORGIA TECH

Coach: Bill Lewis (5-6, 1 year; 40-38-2 overall, 7 years).

1992 record: 5-6. ACC: 4-4/T4th.

Key losses: Kevin Battle, NG; Curley Day, CB; Shawn Jones, QB; Jim Kushon, OT; Woodie Milam, OG; Kevin Peoples, FS; Bobby Rodriguez, FL; Coleman Rudolph, DT; Scott Sisson, K.

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** William Bell, FB, 5-11/203, Sr.; Gary Brown, G, 6-5/308, Sr.; Michael

Continued



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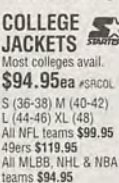
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\$18⁰⁰ ea. Complete set of 27: **\$410.00**

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SB-V Baltimore Colts
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SB-IX Pittsburgh Steelers
SB-X Pittsburgh Steelers
SB-XI Oakland Raiders
SB-XII Dallas Cowboys
SB-XIII Pittsburgh Steelers
SB-XIV Pittsburgh Steelers
SB-XV Oakland Raiders
SB-XVI San Fran. 49ers
SB-XVII Wash. Redskins
SB-XVIII L.A. Raiders
SB-XIX San Fran. 49ers
SB-XX Chicago Bears
SB-XXI New York Giants
SB-XXII Wash. Redskins
SB-XXIII San Fran. 49ers
SB-XXIV San Fran. 49ers
SB-XXV New York Giants
SB-XXVI Wash. Redskins
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One size fits all.

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XXL \$18
Available for Bears, Bills, Browns, Bengals, Colts, Cowboys, Eagles, Broncos, Packers, Rams, Saints, Raiders, Dolphins, Vikings, Patriots, Giants, Steelers, Redskins, 49ers, Seahawks, Oilers, Chiefs, Lions, Jets. Also available for MLB and College

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Steelers \$8 Lions \$8
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Dolphins \$8 Vikings \$8
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\$250⁰⁰ ea 24oz. distressed Melton wool body with genuine distressed leather sleeves mirrors the nostalgic throwback era. Custom embroidered NFL vintage collection team logo on left chest and back. Stand up spinn nylon collar, knit cuffs and waistband in solid color. Heavyweight quilting. #DETB No Returns...Jackets are custom made

Sizes: S(34-36) M(38-40) L(42-44) XL(46-48) XXL(50-52) Add 20% XXXL(54-60) Add 30% XXXL(58-60) Add 40%
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24oz. wool melton body. Leather sleeves. Large chenille patch on front and back. Left shoulder has commemorative patch. No returns or refunds on jackets as they are custom made #DAL NFL28 by DeLong

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100% genuine leather. Pro graphic embroidered directly on left chest and back. Commemorative patch on left sleeve. Standup spinn nylon collar, knit cuffs & waistband match jacket body color. For sizes use information under leather sleeved jacket by DeLong

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Identical to those worn by your favorite team.

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NEW! NFL GUST JACKET

Features lightweight nylon taffeta lining. Embroidered team logo on left chest. Embroidered team name on right sleeve, detachable hood zip behind collar. Sizes: L, XL, #STGJNF

\$64⁹⁵ ea. two for \$120⁰⁰

Available for: Cowboys, Eagles, Dolphins, Steelers, Bills, 49ers, Giants, Jets, Packers, Redskins, Saints, Colts, Rams, Cardinals, Chargers, Colts: #STGJCOL, Michigan, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Alabama. Some teams may not be avail. until 9/1

Hurry! Supplies are limited! Call for additions.



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New from Starter. Features: Crinkle oxford nylon shell with poly filled insulation, Satin applique front team name and back team logo and front pouch pocket and side zipper opening. Sizes: M/L/XL #STBWJNF

Available for: NFL: Cowboys, Dolphins, Eagles, Packers, Jets (black), Bills, Raiders, Steelers, Vikings, Chiefs (black), Giants (black), Bears, 49ers (black), Redskins. The following are Limited Quantities: Broncos, Chargers, Colts, Lions, Rams, Saints, Cardinals, Browns, Oilers (black) Some teams may not be avail. until 9/1. See College Breakaways on right hand page of this advertisement for additions.

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Full color, Pro cut, short sleeve, tapered body. In full color with players number, we do offer both dark & white for most teams. Call to verify. Adult sizes: S/M/L/XL \$89.95 #PROJ XXL \$94.95

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Redskins 44 Riggins
Redskins 41 Monk
Cowboys 9 Aikman
Cowboys 22 Smith
Cowboys 84 Novack
Cowboys 88 Irvin
Eagles 12 Cunningham
Giants 11 Simms
Giants 27 Hampton
Giants 56 Taylor
Bills 12 Kelly
Bills 34 Thomas
Bills 55 Bennett
Bills 78 B. Smith
Lions 11 Ware
Lions 20 Sanders
Patriots 11 Bledsoe
Colts 11 George
Colts 55 Coryatt
Colts 90 Emmann
Bears 4 Harbaugh
Bears 35 Anderson
Bears 50 Singletary
49ers 8 Young
49ers 18 Montana
49ers 80 Rice
Rams 11 Everett
Saints 21 Hilliard
Steelers 12 Bradshaw
Steelers 28 Foster
Steelers 56 Lambert
Packers 4 Favre
Packers 84 Sarnap
Packers 92 White
Chargers 55 Sassi
Cardinals: Hearst
Falcons 21 Sanders
Falcons 80 Rison
Browns 19 Kosar
Chiefs 13 Montana
Chiefs 35 Dwyer
Chiefs 58 Thomas
Oilers 1 Moon
Raiders 25 Bilenickoff
Raiders 34 Jackson
Raiders 75 Long
Broncos 7 Elway
Dolphins 13 Marino
Jets 7 Eliason
Jets 42 Lott
Seahawks 99 Kenney
Vikings 9 McMahon

Any custom number-add \$15 (custom tackle twill number for Steelers, 49ers, Packers, Raiders-add \$20) Raiders white jerseys add extra \$25.00 to jersey price as numbering is double color tackle twill. We also offer names on back of jerseys for extra \$20.00 up to 10 letters. Bears, Chiefs, Steelers (white) add \$30.00 for name. These are done in double color tackle twill. No refund on special lettering or ordered items. *Number to be determined



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The helmet the Pros wear! Official Riddell Pro helmet. We cannot guarantee a certain size or mask.

\$175.00ea #RID28
Authentic Miniature helmet. Genuine scaled down version of Pro helmet.

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One Pro and one Mini for the special price of **\$250.00** #SR2

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TOP: 100% Bright Nylon PANTS: Adult Jerseys by Speedline. sizes-34,36,38 Adult Sizes-42,44,46 **\$89⁹⁵ ea.** #SPCBP
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TOP/PANTS COMBO: \$169⁹⁵ SET



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\$16⁰⁰ ea. XXL
Crew Neck \$18⁰⁰ Sweatshirt \$29⁹⁵
50%Poly/50% Cotton, Navy



AIKMAN MVP T-SHIRT

\$18⁰⁰ ea. L/XL
\$20⁰⁰ ea. XXL
100% Cotton, Color/Navy

S.B. XVI thru XXVII #SB200

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A. Pennant \$4ea #TNFP (set of all 28 teams \$70.00) #TNFPA
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\$18.00ea L/XL (white) Sweatshirt (white) **\$29.95** L/XL



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All below items are Cowboys Champ items

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F. Christmas Ball-\$6ea
G. Bumper Sticker-\$3ea
H. Button-\$5ea

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An authentic Riddell helmet fitted with an ITT Trendline telephone. Mounted on 9x12" solid oak base. Touchtone or rotary dial. (please specify when ordering)

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\$79⁹⁵ ea Authentic Riddell helmet cut in half and mounted on oak plaque. All colleges available plus many teams. by Nardi #NFP

S.B. PROGRAMS CHAMP PENNANTS

	#SBGP Programs	#SBCPN Pennants
a. SB XXVII	\$30	\$6
b. SB XXVI	\$20	\$7
c. SB XXV	\$20	\$8
d. SB XXIV	\$25	\$9
e. SB XXIII	\$25	\$10
f. SB XXII	\$25	\$10
g. SB XXI	\$25	\$10
h. SB XX	\$30	\$10
i. SB XIX	\$30	\$10
j. SB XVIII	\$30	\$11
k. SB XVII	\$30	\$13
l. SB XVI	\$35	\$16
m. SB XV	\$35	not avail

Cheever, C, 6-4/265, Soph.; Jason Dukes, T, 6-7/324, Soph.; Jimmy Lincoln, HB, 5-8/183, Jr.; Jason McGill, FL, 6-1/188, Sr.; Jeff Papushak, TE, 6-3/228, Jr. **Defense (7):** Jamal Cox, LB, 6-2/230, Jr.; Lethon Flowers, CB, 5-11/184, Jr.; Tom Johnson, LB, 6-5/241, Sr.; Richard Kimsey, T, 6-3/262, Sr.; Rodney Wilkerson, LB, 6-3/221, Jr.; Marlon Williams, LB, 6-2/209, Sr.; Mike Williams, FS, 5-10/180, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Jason Bender, P, 6-3/208, Jr. **Other key returnees:** Bryan Baxter, NG, Sr.; Brian Bravy, OG, Jr.; Marcus Coleman, CB, Sr.; Donnie Davis, QB, Soph.; Elliott Fortune, DT, Soph.; David Hendrix, SS, Jr.; Dorsey Levens, HB, Sr.; Michael Smith, FB, Jr.; Greg Telemaque, FB, Soph. (RS); Todd Vance, TE, Jr.; Keenan Walker, FL, Sr. **Top newcomers:** Grant Baynham, TE, Fr. (RS); Al Burton, FB/LB, Fr.; Jimmy Clements, FS, Fr.; Mike Dee, FS, Fr. (RS); Gary Joseph, SS, Fr.; Chris Leone, K, Fr. (RS); Yoel Molina, OT, Fr. (RS); Collins Peadar, OG, Fr. (RS); Ron Rogers, LB, Fr.; James Singleton, NG, Fr. (RS); Derrick Steagall, QB, Fr. **Schedule:** Furman, Sept. 11; Virginia, Sept. 16; at Clemson, Sept. 25; at Florida State, Oct. 2; Maryland, Oct. 9; North Carolina, Oct. 16; at North Carolina State, Oct. 23; at Duke, Oct. 30; Baylor, Nov. 6; at Wake Forest, Nov. 13; Georgia, Nov. 25. **Nickname:** Yellow Jackets. **Site:** Atlanta.

Outlook: The Yellow Jackets need to rebound from a disastrous finish in 1992. They lost five of their last six games and didn't play one good game after blowing a late lead against Florida State in the sixth week of the season.

Offensive strengths: One thing that pleased first-year Coach Bill Lewis was the way his team adapted to a new passing at-

tack. Donnie Davis is a promising young quarterback and Jason McGill a big-play receiver.

Offensive weaknesses: The Yellow Jackets were thought to have one of the deepest, most-talented groups of running backs in the country last year, but that group barely averaged 100 yards per game and finished last in the ACC. The line could have helped out more, but many of those same runners have to pick it up a notch in '93.

Defensive strengths: Jamal Cox and converted running back Rodney Wilkerson received some valuable experience as first-year starters at inside linebacker. Outside linebacker Marlon Williams had two interceptions and 1½ sacks against Florida State.

Defensive weaknesses: Georgia Tech was vulnerable to the pass even with All-ACC tackle Coleman Rudolph, and it will be even more vulnerable without him. There aren't many big-play performers here.

Special teams: The Yellow Jackets will miss Scott Sisson, who won six games during his career with last-minute field goals. Punter Jason Bender is back, but he spent the spring trying to earn playing time at wide receiver.

Key to success: More production from the running game.

Sure sign of trouble: The Yellow Jackets lose back-to-back games against Clemson and Florida State early in the season.

Coach Bill Lewis says: "We were awfully close to being a really good football team until the last seven or eight minutes against Florida State (when the Yellow Jackets squandered a 24-14 lead). To be honest, we never quite got it back after that."

6 VIRGINIA

Coach: George Welsh (73-51-3, 11 years; 128-97-4 overall, 20 years).

1992 record: 7-4. ACC: 4-4/T4th.

Key losses: Daymon Anderson, DB; Bobby Goodman, QB; Michael Husted, K; Greg Jeffries, CB; Charles Keiningham, OG; Terry Kirby, TB; Tim Samec, C; Gary Steele, FB; Chris Slade, DE; David Ware, OT.

Starters returning: Offense (5): Demetrius (Pete) Allen, WR, 5-10/151, Soph.; Tyrone Davis, WR, 6-5/214, Jr.; Mark Dixon, G, 6-4/283, Sr.; Aaron Mundy, TE, 6-6/248, Sr.; Jim Reid, T, 6-7/305, Sr. **Defense (8):** Mike Frederick, E, 6-5/258, Jr.; P.J. Killian, LB, 6-3/234, Sr.; Mark Krichbaum, T, 6-6/272, Jr.; Ryan Kuehl, E/T, 6-5/267, Jr.; Keith Lyle, S, 6-2/204, Sr.; Greg McClellan, CB, 5-10/193, Sr.; Randy Neal, LB, 6-3/234, Jr.; Gene Toliver, LB, 6-3/231, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Patrick Harkleroad, K/P, 5-8/180, Soph.

Other key returnees: Kevin Brooks, TB, Soph.; Tom Burns, LB, Sr.; Joe Crocker, DB, Soph.; Percy Ellsworth, DB, Soph.; Chris Harrison, OT, Jr.; Bryan Heath, C/OG, Jr.; Curtis Hicks, LB, Jr.; Carl Smith, DB, Jr.; Mike Wardlaw, DB, Soph.; Jerrod Washington, TB, Sr.; Charles Way, FB, Jr.; Symmion Willis, QB, Soph.

Top newcomers: Duane Ashman, DT/DE, Fr. (RS); Frank Bjoring, OT, Fr. (RS); Ken Buczynski, OG, Fr. (RS); Jon Harris, DE, Fr. (RS); Mike Kelly, OT, Fr. (RS); Tom Locklin, OL, Fr. (RS); Darrell Medley, RB, Fr. (RS); Jeremy Raley, OG, Fr. (RS); Jamie Sharper, LB, Fr. (RS); Tim Sherman, QB, Fr. (RS); Greg Terry, LB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Maryland, Sept. 4; Navy, Sept. 11; at Georgia Tech, Sept. 16; Duke, Sept. 25; Ohio University, Oct. 2; at Florida State, Oct. 16; North Carolina, Oct. 23; at North Carolina State, Oct. 30; Wake Forest, Nov. 6; at Clemson, Nov. 13; Virginia Tech, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Cavaliers.

Site: Charlottesville, Va.

Outlook: Virginia has one of the ACC's toughest rows to hoe with five conference games away from home, including trips to Florida State, N.C. State and Clemson. Still, the Cavaliers have won seven or more games for six straight seasons, so it's risky to write them off.

Offensive strengths: This may be the year guard Mark Dixon and tight end Aaron Mundy get their due. Tackle Jim Reid, if his knees are sound, may be in the same class. Tailback Jerrod Washington, who had 1,200 all-purpose yards last year but was injured in spring practice, must be healthy.

Offensive weaknesses: The Cavaliers came out of spring practice with four quarterbacks who have never started a college game. Symmion Willis, the most likely starter, missed most of last season with a separated shoulder.

Defensive strengths: Three-year starter P.J. Killian heads a veteran linebacking corps that goes eight deep. There are returnees at 10 different positions who started at least one game.

Defensive weaknesses: There is no proven pass rusher following the departure of All-America end Chris Slade. The Cavaliers also must prove they can stop the run—they gave up more than 300 rushing yards three times last year.

Special teams: Except for some decent place-kicking, recent special-teams play at Virginia has been deplorable. The Cavs ranked last in Division I-A in net punting, a statistic that reflected both poor kicking and lousy coverage.

Key to success: Virginia has had three different quarterbacks lead the ACC in passing efficiency the last three years. As such, its quarterbacks don't lose games. That trend must continue.

Sure sign of trouble: The tailbacks get hurt. Virginia had only two players on scholarship at the position last spring, and Washington was injured.

Coach George Welsh says: "I like to think we're a good second-half (of the season) football team. We haven't been for a couple of years."

7 MARYLAND

Coach: Mark Duffner (3-8, 1 year; 63-13-1 overall, 7 years).

1992 record: 3-8. ACC: 2-6/8th.

Key losses: Kevin Arline, OG; Marcus Badgett, WR; Brandon Bertha, CB; Darren Colvin, LB; David DeArmas, K/P; Darren Drozdov, NG; Dave Dunne, OT; Richie Harris, WR; Bill Inge, SS; Mike Jar-molowich, LB; John Kaleo, QB; Doug Lawrence, CB; Dan Prunzik, WR; Scott Rosen, FB; Ron Staffileno, OG; Brett Stevenson, TE.

Starters returning: Offense (4): Jade Dubis, G, 6-1/274, Jr.; Wade Inge, WR, 6-1/180, Soph.; Steve Ingram, T, 6-5/283, Jr.; Mark Mason, RB, 5-8/191, Sr. **Defense (5):** Tim Brown, LB, 6-1/205, Soph.; Mike Lacy, CB, 5-9/173, Soph.; Jim Panagos, NG, 6-2/250, Sr.; Mark Sturdivant, E, 6-2/245, Sr.; Chad Wiestling, LB, 6-2/220, Sr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returnees: Jamie Bragg, C/OG, Jr.; Doug Burnett, RB, Jr.; Gene Green, CB, Jr.; Angel Guerra, SS, Jr.; Dave Hack, OG/OT, Jr. (RS/academics); Jermaine Lewis, WR, Soph.; Scott Milanovich, QB, Soph.; John Teter, OT, Soph.; Raphael Wall, SS, Jr.; Erick Wood, LB, Jr.

Top newcomers: Lonny Callicchio, K/P, Jr. (JC); Kevin Foley, QB, Fr. (RS); Sharrod Mack, DT, Fr. (RS); Mark Motley, OT, Jr. (JC); Orlando Strozier, CB, Fr. (RS).



Lots of LBs: Three-year starter P.J. Killian heads a veteran Virginia linebacking corps that goes eight deep.

Schedule: Virginia, Sept. 4; at North Carolina, Sept. 11; West Virginia, Sept. 18; at Virginia Tech, Sept. 25; Penn State, Oct. 2; at Georgia Tech, Oct. 9; Duke, Oct. 16; at Clemson, Oct. 30; Florida State, Nov. 6; at North Carolina State, Nov. 13; at Wake Forest, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Terrapins.
Site: College Park, Md.

Outlook: The Terrapins turned heads in 1992 with first-year Coach Mark Duffner's run-and-shoot offense, but they still have to prove they can stop the opposition on a consistent basis to avoid a deep lower-division finish.

Offensive strengths: Duffner's system helped turn a previously obscure quarterback, John Kaleo, into the league's total-offense leader. The quarterback will change, but the success won't. Running back Mark Mason was leading the ACC in all-purpose yardage before he broke his collarbone.

Offensive weaknesses: Scott Milanovich, who battled Kaleo for the starting quarterback job until the beginning of last season, has had little on-the-job training. He also won't have Kaleo's top two targets of a year ago, Marcus Badgett and Dan Prunzik.

Defensive strengths: Jim Panagos is an undersized noseguard, but he led the Terrapins in sacks and tackles for losses despite missing the last three games. End Mark Sturdivant is a dangerous pass rusher and a dependable tackler.

Defensive weaknesses: Just about everything else. The Terps finished last in the league in five of seven defensive categories—including total defense, rushing defense and scoring defense—and allowed an ACC-high 23 touchdown passes.

Special teams: Junior college transfer Lonny Calichio needs to step in for David DeArmas, who decided to transfer himself after handling punting and field-goal duties for the Terps last year.

Key to success: The Terrapins ended last year on a high note with a 53-23 victory over heavily favored Clemson. They need to build on that momentum.

Sure sign of trouble: Mason gets hurt again. He's got the kind of skills that are ideal for the run-and-shoot offense, but he's yet to play a full season because of injuries.

Coach Mark Duffner says: "At Holy Cross, our teams were always ranked in the top 15 (in Division I-AA) in scoring defense. It's a real sore spot for me. We gave up way too many yards last year."

8 DUKE

Coach: Barry Wilson (10-22-1, 3 years).

1992 record: 2-9. ACC: 0-8/9th.

Key losses: Randy Cuthbert, TB; Tim Davis, P; Keith DuBose, CB; Randy Gardner, K; Derrick Jackson, SS; Brandon Moore, OT; Darrell Spells, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (9):** Steve Alderfer, G, 6-4/285, Sr.; Robert Baldwin, FB, 6-0/220, Sr.; Brad Breedlove, WR, 5-11/175, Sr.; Dan Clark, TE, 6-5/250, Sr.; Stanley Dorsey, WR, 6-2/195, Sr.; Jeroen Egge, C, 6-3/265, Jr.; Spence Fischer, QB/P, 6-3/210, Jr.; P.J. Schunke, G, 6-4/300, Sr.; Matt Williams, T, 6-5/275, Sr. **Defense (8):** Scott Berdan, LB, 6-2/235, Sr.; Jamal Ellis, CB, 5-11/185, Sr.; Duane Marks, E, 6-5/245, Sr.; Travis Pearson, E, 6-4/245, Sr.; Brad Sherrod, LB, 6-3/230, Sr.; Sean Thomas, FS, 6-2/195, Sr.; David Waffle, T, 6-6/270, Sr.; Scott Youmans, T, 6-1/275, Sr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returnees: Tom Cochran, K, Soph.; Tee Edwards, CB, Jr.; Leroy Gallman, TB, Sr.; Billy Granville, LB, Soph.; Gavin Gray, FS, Sr.; David Hawkins, LB, Jr.; David Lowman, RB, Jr.; John Merrill, OT, Jr.; Warren Scoville, DT, Sr.; John Zuanich, SS, Soph.

Top newcomers: Joe Pickens, QB, Jr. (transfer/Ohio State); T.C. White, RB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Florida State, Sept. 4; at Rutgers, Sept. 11; Army, Sept. 18; at Virginia, Sept. 25; at Tennessee, Oct. 2; Clemson, Oct. 9; at Maryland, Oct. 16; at Wake Forest, Oct. 23; Georgia Tech, Oct. 30; North Carolina State, Nov. 6; at North Carolina, Nov. 26.

Nickname: Blue Devils.
Site: Durham, N.C.

Outlook: It's possible the Blue Devils will have as many as 10 fifth-year seniors in their starting lineup, which should be an asset as they try to snap a 13-game ACC losing streak. Those players, however, have not experienced a great deal of success thus far.

Offensive strengths: There's depth at quarterback with Spence Fischer, who passed for 1,505 yards despite sharing time last year, and Joe Pickens, a transfer from Ohio State who will press for playing time. Tight end Dan Clark and wide receivers Brad Breedlove and Stanley Dorsey combined for 82 receptions.

Offensive weaknesses: There is no tailback who carried the ball more than eight times in 1992. T.C. White and David Lowman, two players who impressed the coaching staff last spring, need to come through in the fall.

Defensive strengths: Everyone except leading tackler Darrell Spells returns on the front seven, which will be strengthened further by the return of left tackle Scott Youmans, who was injured seven games into the season. Right tackle David Waffle, who had 17 tackles for losses, is one of the most unsung players in the ACC.

Defensive weaknesses: The secondary figures to be bad again. The Blue Devils lost three of four starters after finishing last in the league in pass-efficiency defense.

Special teams: Although Leroy Gallman and Breedlove finished 1-2 in the league in kickoff returns, Duke's own ability to kick the ball is questionable. No ACC team had fewer field goals (seven) last year.

Key to success: An effective late-game, prevent defense. The Blue Devils lost four games by five or fewer points, twice when teams drove the length of the field in the closing seconds.

Sure sign of trouble: A loss to Army in the third game. Without a team on their schedule that they beat last season, this is one game the Blue Devils cannot afford to lose.

Coach Barry Wilson says: "Did we do a good job because we came close, or was it a bad job because we didn't win? I would take it as a positive. I want kids to see the program in a good light."

9 WAKE FOREST

Coach: Jim Caldwell (first year as head coach).

1992 record: 8-4 (beat Oregon in Independence Bowl). ACC: 4-4/T4th.

Key losses: George Coghill, CB; Ben Coleman, OT; Bobby Jones, FL; Ron Lambert, DB; Mike McCrary, DE; Maurice Miller, DE; John Henry Mills, TE;

Tommy Mordica, OG; Lamont Scales, DB; Scott Shelhamer, LB; Rudy Thompson, DT; Keith West, QB.

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Todd Dixon, SE, 5-11/173, Sr.; Mitch Kennedy, FB, 5-10/235, Sr.; John Leach, TB, 5-9/213, Sr.; Eddie McKeel, C, 6-2/266, Jr.; Elton Ndoma-Ogar, T, 6-2/270, Soph.; Kevin Smith, G, 6-4/255, Sr. **Defense (4):** Dred Boone, T, 6-2/279, Sr.; Kevin Giles, LB, 6-0/216, Jr.; Richard Goodpasture, SS, 5-11/187, Jr.; Jay Williams, E, 6-4/267, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Mike Green, K/P, 5-11/202, Sr.

Other key returnees: Kevin Cole, SS, Sr.; Jim Kemp, QB, Sr.; Rusty LaRue, QB, Soph.; David Lowe, OT, Sr.; Ned Moultrie, TB, Sr.; Roger Pettus, WR, Jr.; Diron Reynolds, LB, Sr.; Wendell Wells, FB, Jr.

Top newcomers: None.

Schedule: Vanderbilt, Sept. 4; North Carolina State, Sept. 11; Appalachian State, Sept. 18; at Northwestern, Sept. 25; at North Carolina, Oct. 9; at Clemson, Oct. 16; Duke, Oct. 23; at Florida State, Oct. 30; at Virginia, Nov. 6; Georgia Tech, Nov. 13; Maryland, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Demon Deacons.
Site: Winston-Salem, N.C.

Outlook: The Deacons were a consensus choice to finish in the ACC cellar a year ago before surprising the pundits with a rare bowl appearance. The combination of a new coach and the loss of 12 starters, however, makes a repeat performance unlikely. Jim Caldwell, a former assistant at Penn State, has his work cut out for him in his first season as a head coach.

Offensive strengths: Todd Dixon, who caught five passes for 166 yards and two touchdowns against Oregon in the Independence Bowl, is one of college football's most dangerous receivers. Tailbacks Ned Moultrie and John Leach combined for more than 1,300 yards.

Offensive weaknesses: Jim Kemp and Rusty LaRue, the leading candidates to start at quarterback, received little playing time over the final eight games of last season as the departed Keith West accounted for 205 of the last 206 passes thrown by the Deacons.

Defensive strengths: Wake Forest's best defender is junior linebacker Kevin Giles, who had a team-high 116 tackles despite missing one game with an injury.

Defensive weaknesses: The Deacons need to replace defensive ends Mike McCrary and Maurice Miller, who combined for 24 sacks and 38 tackles for losses. Three replacements also have to be found for a secondary that yielded an ACC-low seven touchdown passes.

Special teams: George Coghill, the ACC record holder for career punt-return average, will be missed. Mike Green is 25-for-35 on field-goal attempts the last two years.

Key to success: No turnovers. The Deacons did not commit a turnover for the equivalent of three straight games and finished first in the ACC and eighth in Division I-A with a plus-12 turnover margin.

Sure sign of trouble: Injuries. This is not a deep team, and the Deacons were fortunate last year that none of their seven seniors who started on defense missed a game. There isn't much experience in the starting lineup, much less on the bench.

Coach Jim Caldwell says: "There will be more of a resemblance (to Penn State) off the field: no earrings, no hats indoors, no nonsense. On the field, we hope to be able to throw the football more than Penn State." ■

SCOUTING THE ATLANTIC COAST

Ascending: Clemson. Some people might say the Tigers are descending, especially after their first losing season in 16 years, but the stage is set for Clemson to return to its former glory. The Tigers play seven home games and, unlike some other teams in the upper echelon of the ACC, did not lose a prominent underclassmen to the National Football League draft.

Descending: Wake Forest and Virginia. The Demon Deacons were 8-24-1 in the three seasons prior to last year, and it is unrealistic to expect them to earn another bowl bid, especially after changing coaches. The Cavaliers have lost the firepower that resulted in three straight bowl trips from 1989-91.

Nightmare schedule: Florida State. No other ACC team has a tougher non-league slate. The Seminoles play Top 10 teams Miami (Fla.), Notre Dame and Florida—the latter two on the road in a span of three weeks.

Dream schedule: North Carolina. Although the Tar Heels ended a six-year bowl drought in 1992, it's hard to take them seriously when they schedule the likes of Ohio University, Texas-El Paso and Tulane. This, following a season in which the Tar Heels' non-conference slate included Army, Navy and Furman.

Best matchup of the year: North Carolina at North Carolina State, September 25. Although the Wolfpack has won the last five meetings between the teams, this series stirs emotions.

Worst matchup of the year: Maryland at Clemson, October 30. This one could get ugly as Clemson tries to make amends for last year. Not only did the Terrapins whip the Tigers, 53-23, but their fans also tore down the goal posts at the end of the game.

Shocker of the year: Duke over North Carolina State, November 6. It's the final home game for a bunch of Duke's fifth-year seniors, who have traditionally given the Wolfpack fits.

Bowl bound: Florida State, North Carolina State, North Carolina and Clemson all are headed for postseason play and Top 25 finishes. The biggest question is whether the Seminoles' bowl game will determine the national champion.

Biggest shoes to fill: Those of North Carolina running back Natrone Means. The Tar Heels were 14-0 the last three years when Means rushed for at least 100 yards. He passed up his final year of eligibility for the NFL, and his likely successor, sophomore Curtis Johnson, rushed for 244 yards last season, 76 on one carry.

Most underrated player: Terry Smith, SE, Clemson. Although he caught 14 fewer

passes in 1992 than he did in '91, Smith is a lock to become Clemson's all-time receptions leader. An increased emphasis on the pass this season would suit this Tiger just fine.

Impact newcomers: Scott Bentley, K/P, Florida State, Fr.; Lonny Callichio, P/K, Maryland, Jr. (JC); Jimmy Clements, FS, Georgia Tech, Fr.; Joe Pickens, QB, Duke, Jr. (transfer/Ohio State); T.C. White, RB, Duke, Fr. (RS).

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive line:
North Carolina

Best offensive backfield:
Florida State

Best backup quarterback:
Jason Stanicek, North Carolina

Best wide receivers:
Florida State

Best clutch receiver:
Corey Holliday, North Carolina

Best defensive line:
Florida State

Best-hitting defensive lineman:
Carl Reeves, North Carolina State

Best linebackers:
Florida State

Best-hitting linebacker:
Derrick Brooks, Florida State

Best secondary:
Florida State

Best-hitting defensive back:
Bracey Walker, North Carolina

Best kicking game:
Clemson

Best kick-coverage unit:
North Carolina State

Best coaching staff:
Florida State

Best coach:
Dick Sheridan, North Carolina State

Best Heisman candidate:
Charlie Ward, QB, Florida State

Best pro prospect:
Brentson Buckner, DT, Clemson

Coach of the year: Ken Hatfield, Clemson. Almost a no-brainer. The Tigers were so bad in 1992 that they're going to look great in comparison this fall.

Coach on the hot seat: Barry Wilson, Duke. He was granted a stay of execution last year, but his 2-20 record in ACC competition has sharpened the blade. A rigorous

1993 schedule does him no favors. Duke can be certain it will be favored only against Army.

Odds and ends: An ACC-record seven underclassmen applied for the NFL draft. Florida State linebacker Marvin Jones, North Carolina's Means and North Carolina State safety Mike Reid all were high draft picks. N.C. State defensive end Keith Battle and Clemson running back Ronald Williams, on the other hand, were not drafted at all. "It takes two years to replace a player like Mike Reid," N.C. State Coach Dick Sheridan said. "It think it (declaring early for the draft) is going to be a trend." ... Only six first-team All-ACC selections return in 1993, and there are no two-time all-conference choices. ... Some of the league's best baseball players also play football. Included in the group are N.C. State backup quarterback Terry Harvey, Georgia Tech running back Michael Smith and Duke free safety Ray Farmer, a former tight end. Harvey pitched a no-hitter against Florida State; Smith and Farmer were among the league leaders in stolen bases last spring. ... An ACC-record six teams won at least four conference games in 1992. ... Florida State has won an NCAA-record eight straight bowl games and is 10-0-1 in its last 11 postseason appearances. Bobby Bowden's .781 winning percentage in bowl games is the best in NCAA history among coaches with at least 11 decisions. ... Bowden is the first coach in Division I-A history to win 10 or more games in six straight seasons. ... Although Florida State defensive back Corey Sawyer set an ACC record for punt-return yards (488) and also led the conference with seven interceptions, he had zero return yards on those interceptions. ... Wake Forest hasn't had a 1,000-yard rusher since 1979. ... When 6-foot-4, 320-pound Clemson guard Stacy Seegars required an appendectomy last spring, doctors originally could not find his appendix because it was covered with so many layers of muscle.

—DOUG DOUGHTY

RETURNING LEADERS

Rushing: Rodney Blunt, Clemson, 75.1 yds./game (150 att., 826 yds., 5 TDs, 5.5 avg.).

Passing efficiency: Charlie Ward, Florida State, 127.4 rating pts. (365 att., 204 comp., 2,647 yds., 22 TDs).

Total offense: Charlie Ward, Florida State, 286.5 yds./per game (504 yds. rushing, 2,647 yds. passing, 3,151 total yds.).

Receiving: Todd Dixon, Wake Forest, 4.6 rec./game. (51 rec., 750 yds., 7 TDs, 14.7 avg.).

Scoring: Nelson Welch, Clemson, 8.1 pts./game (0 TDs, 23 PATs, 22 FGs, 89 pts.).

Punting: Mike Thomas, North Carolina, 43.1 avg. (56 punts, 2,415 yds.).

Punt returns: Corey Sawyer, Florida State, 14.8 avg. (33 att., 488 yds., 1 TD).

Kickoff returns: Raphael Wall, Maryland, 21.9 avg. (24 att., 527 yds., 0 TDs).

Field goals: Nelson Welch, Clemson, 2 FG/game (22/28 FGs, 79%).

Interceptions: Corey Sawyer, Florida State, 0.64 int./game (7 int., 0 yds., 0 TDs).



Deadly target: Wake Forest's Todd Dixon is one of college football's most dangerous receivers.

Time has come for someone to dethrone Miami

By **LENN ROBBINS**

Morristown Daily Record

When the Big East Football Conference was formally announced on February 5, 1991, Commissioner Michael Tranghese and coaches and athletic directors of all eight schools weren't shy about trumpeting the league's calling card—Miami (Fla.).

"Without sounding arrogant, I think that having Miami football gives the Big East instant credibility," said then Miami athletic director Dave Maggard.

Well, the time has come for the Big East to up its line of credit or face the same slights leveled at other conferences in the past. It wasn't that long ago when the Big Ten was mocked as the Big Two—Michigan, Ohio State and eight other schools. The Big Eight faced the same cynicism: six schools scrambling for position behind heavyweights Nebraska and Oklahoma.

In the league's first two years of existence, Miami has been crowned the Big East champion based on its ranking in the final USA Today/CNN poll. This year, however, the league begins a seven-game, round-robin conference schedule, and the time has come for another Big East school to rise up and dethrone the Hurricanes. Until that happens, the Big East will be regarded nationally as Miami's personal stomping grounds.

"When Syracuse played Miami so well last year on national television, I think it sent a critically important message to the country," Tranghese said. "We need to have competition, and that game showed we do. Having the same team on top every year isn't good for any conference."

"Syracuse has made unbelievable strides. Boston College has risen to a new level. Rutgers is on the rise. People know West Virginia, and it wasn't too long ago that Pitt was on top. I'm more concerned with having more teams in the mix. I don't think it's critically important for someone besides Miami to win the league but I think two or three teams have to be on that level."

Syracuse was three yards shy of leveling Miami last season in the Carrier Dome. The Hurricanes escaped with a 16-10 win when Miami strong safety Casey Greer tackled Syracuse tight end Chris Gedney on the 3-yard line as time expired. The loss still haunts the Orangemen, who will have a chance for revenge on October 23 in Miami's Orange Bowl.

"I didn't even watch the last play," Syracuse linebacker Dan Conley said. "I listened to the crowd. When they started cheering, I took my first glance and thought, 'We beat Miami.' Then I saw where the ball was. My heart stopped for a split second. Three yards short, damn. I'm counting the days until we go down there."

Syracuse is not the only Big East team to have thrown a scare into Miami the last two years. Boston College lost a 19-14 battle in 1991, a defeat that served as a springboard for the Eagles' 8-3-1 record last season. Vir-

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. SYRACUSE
2. MIAMI (FLA.)
3. BOSTON COLLEGE
4. RUTGERS
5. WEST VIRGINIA
6. VIRGINIA TECH
7. PITTSBURGH
8. TEMPLE

ginia Tech and West Virginia each scored 23 points against Miami in '92. But the fact remains that Miami hasn't lost to a Big East opponent since the league was formed.

The Hurricanes will be breaking in a new quarterback, Frank Costa, this season, while Syracuse has the masterful Marvin Graves returning. Both teams need to rebuild their linebacking and receiving corps, but the talent is there. Both teams should have solid offensive lines, excellent defensive lines, secondaries, running backs and special teams. But it appears Syracuse may have a little more than the Hurricanes this season.



Gifted Orangeman: Dan Conley is a superb talent with a shaky knee.

1 SYRACUSE

Coach: Paul Pasqualoni (20-4, 2 years; 54-21 overall, 7 years).

1992 record: 10-2 (beat Colorado in Fiesta Bowl). Big East: 6-1/2nd.

Key losses: Ousmane Bary, CB; John Biskup, K; Chuck Bull, OT; Kerry Ferrell, WR; Chris Gedney, TE; Garland Hawkins, LB; Qadry Ismail, WR; Antonio Johnson, WR; Jerry Sharp, OG; James Spencer, DT; David Walker, TB; Terrence Wisdom, OG; Jo Jo Wooden, LB; Glen Young, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Kyle Adams, T, 6-4/285, Sr.; Marvin Graves, QB, 6-1/196, Sr.; Shelby Hill, WR, 6-0/194, Sr.; John Reagan, C, 6-4/271, Sr.; Al Wooten, FB, 5-11/226, Sr. **Defense (6):** Ernie Brown, T, 6-2/260, Sr.; Dan Conley, LB, 6-2/229, Sr.; Bob Grosvenor, SS, 6-0/188, Sr.; Tony Jones, FS, 6-3/198, Jr.; Dwayne Joseph, CB, 5-10/180, Sr.; Kevin Mitchell, NG, 6-1/240, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Pat O'Neill, K/P, 6-1/197, Sr.

Other key returnees: Wilky Bazile, DT, Jr.; Bryce Bevell, CB, Jr.; Eric Chenoweth, TE, Jr.; Kirby Dar Dar, TB, Jr.; Cy Ellsworth, OG, Soph.; Marvin Harrison, WR, Soph.; Chris Marques, LB, Soph.; Dave Rebar, LB, Soph.; Terry Richardson, TB, Jr.; Chip Todd, LB, Sr.; Melvin Tuten, OT, Jr.; Ken Warren, OG, Soph.; Dave Wohlabaugh, OG/C, Jr.

Top newcomers: John Michaelidis, OG, Fr. (RS); Ken Thomas, LB, Fr. (RS); Malcom Thomas, TB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Ball State, Sept. 4; at East Carolina, Sept. 9; at Texas, Sept. 18; Cincinnati, Sept. 25; Boston College, Oct. 2; at Pittsburgh, Oct. 16; at Miami (Fla.), Oct. 23; West Virginia, Oct. 30; Temple, Nov. 6; at Virginia Tech, Nov. 13; at Rutgers, Nov. 26.

Nickname: Orangemen.

Site: Syracuse, N.Y.

Outlook: Since 1987, Syracuse has the sixth-best record (56-14-3) in the country, trailing (in order) Miami (Fla.), Florida State, Notre Dame, Nebraska and Michigan. That's pretty elite company. The Orangemen are 5-0-1 in bowl games over that same span, and they face their easiest schedule since 1987. The third game of the season is at Texas. A win there puts Syracuse on a collision course with Miami for the league title.

Offensive strengths: Quarterback Marvin Graves is a master at running Syracuse's freeze-option offense. Entering his fourth year as a starter, Graves' passing-efficiency rating has risen each year to a high of 149.2 last season, second best in the nation. Shelby Hill might be the nation's best receiver, and the tailbacks go three deep.

Offensive weaknesses: Syracuse doesn't have a replacement for All-America tight end Chris Gedney, who averaged 17.3 yards on 34 catches in '92. Both guard positions are up for grabs, but there are three solid candidates even without Matt Neenan, who underwent a second major knee operation in the off-season.

Defensive strengths: How many noseguards do you know who are often the first player downfield on punt coverage? Kevin Mitchell usually is. A converted linebacker, Mitchell evokes memories of Dallas Cowboys great Randy White. The secondary returns three starters.

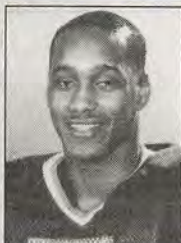
Defensive weaknesses: The only returning linebacker is Dan Conley, who is a superb talent with a shaky knee. He had additional knee surgery in the off-season,

Continued

PRESEASON ALL-BIG EAST TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Marvin
Graves,
QB, Syracuse

DEFENSE



Kevin
Mitchell,
NG, Syracuse

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

Jammi German, WR, Miami

DEFENSE:

John Browning, E, West Virginia

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	ANTONIO FREEMAN, Virginia Tech	6-1/185	Jr.
WR	SHELBY HILL, Syracuse	6-0/194	Sr.
TE	PETE MITCHELL, Boston College	6-2/228	Jr.
T	RICH BRAHAM, West Virginia	6-5/260	Sr.
T	TRE JOHNSON, Temple	6-3/300	Sr.
C	JIM PYNE, Virginia Tech	6-2/280	Sr.
G	RUDY BARBER, Miami	6-3/295	Sr.
G	PETE KENDALL, Boston College	6-5/266	Soph.
QB	MARVIN GRAVES, Syracuse	6-1/196	Sr.
RB	DANYELL FERGUSON, Miami	6-0/195	Soph.
RB	BRUCE PRESLEY, Rutgers	5-10/215	Soph.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	DARREN KREIN, Miami	6-4/258	Sr.
DL	KEVIN MITCHELL, Syracuse	6-1/240	Sr.
DL	KEVIN PATRICK, Miami	6-4/255	Sr.
LB	KEN BROWN, Virginia Tech	6-2/232	Jr.
LB	TIM BROWN, West Virginia	6-0/210	Sr.
LB	DAN CONLEY, Syracuse	6-2/229	Sr.
LB	LANCE JOHNSTONE, Temple	6-3/220	Soph.
DB	TYRONNE DRAKEFORD, Virginia Tech	5-10/187	Sr.
DB	TERRIS HARRIS, Miami	6-1/195	Sr.
DB	DWAYNE JOSEPH, Syracuse	5-10/180	Sr.
DB	DEXTER SEIGLER, Miami	5-9/180	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	DANE PREWITT, Miami	5-11/192	Soph.
P	TODD SAUERBRUN, West Virginia	6-0/195	Jr.
AP	LEW LAWHORN, Temple	5-10/155	Jr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	DIETRICH JELLS, Pittsburgh	6-1/175	Jr.
WR	CHRIS JONES, Miami	6-3/207	Jr.
TE	SYLIE TUCKER, Miami	6-6/230	Soph.
T	KYLE ADAMS, Syracuse	6-4/285	Sr.
T	SCOTT VAUGHN, Rutgers	6-6/305	Sr.
C	TOM NALEN, Boston College	6-3/268	Sr.
G	GREG LANDRY, Boston College	6-4/284	Soph.
G	LAWSON MOLLICA, Pittsburgh	6-4/275	Jr.
QB	GLENN FOLEY, Boston College	6-2/207	Sr.
RB	DARNELL CAMPBELL, Boston College	6-2/220	Sr.
RB	CURTIS MARTIN, Pittsburgh	6-0/190	Jr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	ERNIE BROWN, Syracuse	6-2/260	Sr.
DL	KEIF BRYANT, Rutgers	6-4/270	Jr.
DL	PAT RILEY, Miami	6-6/278	Jr.
LB	ROBERT BASS, Miami	6-2/230	Sr.
LB	STEPHEN BOYD, Boston College	6-1/234	Jr.
LB	ROHAN MARLEY, Miami	5-8/205	Soph.
LB	TOM TUMULTY, Pittsburgh	6-4/240	Soph.
DB	JAY BELLAMY, Rutgers	5-11/190	Sr.
DB	MIKE COLLINS, West Virginia	5-11/190	Sr.
DB	BOB GROSVENOR, Syracuse	6-0/188	Sr.
DB	MALIK JACKSON, Rutgers	6-2/234	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
KP	PAT O'NEILL, Syracuse	6-1/197	Sr.
P	PAT O'NEILL, Syracuse	6-1/197	Sr.

which cut short his spring. Syracuse has recruited some of the best linebackers on the Eastern Seaboard the last three years, but if Conley goes down, the unit loses its only leader.

Special teams: Always a Syracuse strength. Pat O'Neill has booted 142 of 188 career kickoffs into the end zone, resulting in 122 touchbacks. The loss of Qadry Ismail will hurt the return game.

Keys to success: Graves and Conley must stay healthy and some new skill people will have to step forward to replace the firepower of receivers Ismail, Antonio Johnson, Kerry Ferrell and tailback David Walker.

Sure sign of trouble: If Texas runs roughshod over Syracuse in the third game of the season, the Orangemen could be in trouble. Syracuse held teams to 91.5 yards rushing per game last season, fifth best in the nation, but three of four starting linebackers are gone.

Coach Paul Pasqualoni says: "I would say based on the number of wins recently, we can feel we have a privileged place among the elite in the East."

2 MIAMI (FLA.)

Coach: Dennis Erickson (44-4, 4 years; 94-35-1 overall, 11 years).

1992 record: 11-1 (lost to Alabama in Sugar Bowl). Big East: 4-0/1st.

Key losses: Jessie Armstead, LB; Micheal Barrow, LB; Coleman Bell, TE; Mark Caesar, DT; Horace Copeland, WR; Mario Cristobal, OT; Carlos Etheredge, OT; Casey Greer, SS; Diego London, OG; Ryan McNeil, CB; Darrin Smith, LB; Paul Snyder, P; Darryl Spencer, TB; Lamar Thomas, FL; Gino Torretta, QB; Kipp Vickers, OG; Kevin Williams, WR (de-

clared for NFL draft).

Starters returning: Offense (3): Rudy Barber, G, 6-3/295, Sr.; Donnell Bennett, FB, 6-2/227, Jr.; Tirrell Greene, C (will move to G), 6-3/300, Jr. **Defense (5):** Terris Harris, FS, 6-1/195, Sr.; Darren Krein, E, 6-4/258, Sr.; Kevin Patrick, E, 6-4/255, Sr.; Pat Riley, T, 6-6/278, Jr.; Dexter Seigler, CB, 5-9/180, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Dane Prewitt, K/P, 5-11/192, Soph.

Other key returnees: Robert Bass, LB, Sr.; Marcus Carey, FS, Sr.; Dietrich Clausell, TE, Jr.; Frank Costa, QB, Jr.; Danyell Ferguson, FB, Soph.; Corwin Francis, LB, Jr.; Jack Hallmon, CB, Soph.; Corries Hardy, DE, Soph.; Derrick Harris, LB (will move to FB), Soph.; Jonathan Harris, TB, Jr.; Dwayne Johnson, DT, Jr.; Chris Jones, SE, Jr.; Larry Jones, FB, Jr.; Kenny Lopez, DT, Sr.; Zev Lumelski, OT, Jr.; Rohan Marley, LB, Soph.; Rusty Medearis, DE, Jr. (RS/knee); Malcolm Pearson, SS, Jr.; Ricky Perry, OT, Soph.; Warren Sapp, DT, Soph.; Baraka Short, DE, Jr.; James Stewart, FB, Soph.; A.C. Tellison, FL, Jr.; Syllie Tucker, TE, Soph.; Paul White, CB, Sr.; Chad Wilson, CB, Sr.

Top newcomers: Mike Crissy, P, Soph. (transfer/Ohio State); Jammi German, WR, Fr.; K.C. Jones, C, Fr. (RS); Darius McCullum, SS, Fr. (RS); Twan Russell, LB, Fr. (RS); Alfred Shipman, WR, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Boston College, Sept. 4; Virginia Tech, Sept. 18; at Colorado, Sept. 25; Georgia Southern, Oct. 2; at Florida State, Oct. 9; Syracuse, Oct. 23; Temple, Oct. 30; at Pittsburgh, Nov. 6; Rutgers, Nov. 13; at West Virginia, Nov. 20; Memphis State, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Hurricanes.
Site: Coral Gables, Fla.

Outlook: The Hurricanes have won national championships in odd-numbered years (1983, '87, '89, '91) and each time they did it with a first-year starting quarterback: Bernie Kosar in '83, Steve Walsh in '87, Craig Erickson in '89 and Gino Torretta in '91. Frank Costa will be a first-year starter in 1993. But here's the real oddity: not only

won't the Hurricanes win national title No. 5, they may not even win Big East title No. 3.

Offensive strengths: Some say Miami is Quarterback U. Others say its Wide Receiver U. This year it's Running Back U. The D & D Boys, Danyell Ferguson and Donnell Bennett, are a dynamic and devastating duo. There's great depth with Larry Jones, James Stewart, Jonathan Harris and Derrick Harris, a converted linebacker who was the surprise star of spring practice.

Offensive weaknesses: Dennis Erickson has implemented some two-back sets in an effort to compensate for the loss of a Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback and the nation's best receiving corps. A.C. Tellison, Chris Jones, Jonathan Harris and true freshman Jammi German are potentially great receivers.

Defensive strengths: If you want to find a better line, check some NFL rosters. Tackle Warren Sapp may be the best of the bunch. Ends Darren Krein and Kevin Patrick, along with tackle Pat Riley, are outstanding. Tackle Kenny Lopez also is back, and standout end Rusty Medearis is on schedule to return from reconstructive knee surgery. This line is being compared to the 1989 group that featured Cortez Kennedy, Greg Mark, Jimmie Jones and Willis Peguese.

Defensive weaknesses: All three starting linebackers last year (Darrin Smith, Jessie Armstead and Micheal Barrow) will be in NFL training camps when Miami starts fall practice. But because of the great line, the inexperience at linebacker could be hidden until the likes of Colorado, Florida State and Syracuse show up on the schedule.

Special teams: The Hurricanes must replace electric return man Kevin Williams. Field position may suffer a little, but kicker Dane Prewitt is solid. And remember, Florida State is always wide right.

Key to success: The running game, which finished in a tie for 87th in the nation last year, will have to take the heat off the inexperienced quarterback and receivers.

Sure sign of trouble: Two early-season losses would be devastating to a program that hasn't finished out of the top three since 1985.

Coach Dennis Erickson says: "I think it gets more challenging every year to maintain the level of this program."

3 BOSTON COLLEGE

Coach: Tom Coughlin (12-10-1, 2 years; 28-25-3 overall, 5 years).

1992 record: 8-3-1 (lost to Tennessee in Hall of Fame Bowl). Big East: 2-1-1/3rd.

Key losses: Charlie Brennan, FS; Dan Britten, OT; Chuckie Dukes, RB; Mike Marinaro, DT; Tom McManus, LB; Jason Pohopek, LB; John Stolberg, NG; Ron Stone, OT.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Darnell Campbell, FB, 6-2/220, Sr.; Clarence Cannon, SE, 5-11/162, Jr.; Glenn Foley, QB, 6-2/207, Sr.; Pete Kendall, G, 6-5/266, Soph.; Greg Landry, G, 6-4/284, Soph.; Keith Miller, FL, 5-11/160, Sr.; Pete Mitchell, TE, 6-2/228, Jr.; Tom Nalen, C, 6-3/268, Sr. **Defense (6):** Stephen Boyd, LB, 6-1/234, Jr.; Joe Kamara, CB, 5-9/169, Jr.; Dan Kerr, LB, 6-4/235, Sr.; Michael Reed, CB, 5-9/175, Jr.; Eric Shorter, SS, 5-10/186, Sr.; Chris Sullivan, T, 6-5/266, Soph. **Kickers (2):** Jeff Beckley, P, 6-2/182, Jr.; David Gordon, K, 6-0/178, Sr.

Other key returnees: Ivan Boyd, FL, Sr.; Greg Grice, SE, Soph.; David Jones, LB, Jr. (RS/knee); Clint Kuboyama, CB (will move to FS), Jr.; Gordon Laro, TE, Jr.; Dwight Shirley, FB, Jr.; Justice Smith, RB, Soph.

Top newcomers: Anthony Comer, RB, Jr. (JC); Marcus Bembry, DE, Fr.; Rupert English, FB, Jr. (RS); Brent Gibbons, TE, Fr. (RS); Chris Hackett, K/P, Fr.; Matt Haff, LB, Fr. (RS); Mark Hartsell, QB, Fr. (RS); Kevin Johnson, OG, Soph. (Prop 48); Brian Maye, LB, Fr.; Mark Nori, OT, Fr. (RS); Eric Thomas, CB, Fr.; Omar Walker, RB, Fr.; Kenyatta Watson, WR, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Miami (Fla.), Sept. 4; at Northwestern, Sept. 18; Temple, Sept. 25; at Syracuse, Oct. 2; at Rutgers, Oct. 9; Army, Oct. 23; Tulane, Oct. 30; Virginia Tech, Nov. 6; at Pittsburgh, Nov. 13; at Notre Dame, Nov. 20; West Virginia, Nov. 26.

Nickname: Eagles.

Site: Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Outlook: Four months after the season ended, Boston College Coach Tom Coughlin was still trying to come to grips with his team's late-season collapse. The Eagles' 8-3-1 mark was impressive, but their three losses (to Notre Dame, Syracuse and Tennessee) were by a combined score of 119-40. Can Coughlin elevate this program from the Top 25 to the Top 10? That's this year's mission.

Offensive strengths: Quarterback Glenn Foley will be starting for the fourth year. He still needs to improve his touchdown-to-interception ratio (15-12 in '92), but he's a gutsy leader who holds the offense together. Foley will have his best corps of receivers in four years, led by tight end Pete Mitchell.

Offensive weaknesses: Both starting tackles (Ron Stone and Dan Britten) are gone, and Foley will be a goner if adequate replacements can't be found. Chuckie Dukes, who rushed for more than 1,000 yards last year, will be missed.

Defensive strengths: Last year's weakness, the secondary, becomes this year's strength. Clint Kuboyama moves from cornerback to free safety and replaces Charlie Brennan, the only starter not returning.

Defensive weaknesses: The Eagles weren't good stopping the run last year (4.3 yards per carry) and the guts of the front seven that included linemen Mike Marinaro and John Stolberg and linebacker Tom McManus is gone. In its three '92 losses, Boston College surrendered a whopping 728 rushing yards.

Special teams: This is what separates Boston College from the great teams. The Eagles hit just 5 of 11 field goals and didn't convert one longer than 28 yards in the regular season. The Eagles also ranked 103rd in the nation in punt returns and 98th in kickoff returns.

Key to success: With an opening game against Miami (Fla.) and the fourth game at Syracuse, Boston College isn't going to open the season 7-0-1, as it did last year. The Eagles must maintain their confidence if they're 2-2 after four games.

Sure sign of trouble: If Boston College is minus in the giveaway/takeaway department. Last season, the Eagles were plus 7.

Coach Tom Coughlin says: "When I took the job, I made a commitment as to what I wanted the Boston College football program to be and it's not there yet."

4 RUTGERS

Coach: Doug Graber (16-17, 3 years; 22-22 overall, 4 years).

1992 record: 7-4, Big East: 4-2/4th.

Key losses: Doug Adkins, SS; Travis Broadbent, C; Joe Claffoni, OG; Tekay Dorsey, FB; Jim Guarantano, WR; Doug Kavulich, OG; Todd Lane, LB; Craig Mitter, TB; Marshall Roberts, CB; Shawn Williams, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Chris Brantley, WR, 5-11/180, Sr.; Ken Dammann, T, 6-5/277, Jr.; Bryan Fortay, QB, 6-3/210, Sr.; Chris Stoll, TE, 6-3/237, Sr.; Scott Vaughn, T, 6-6/305, Sr. **Defense (8):** Andrew Beckett, E, 6-4/265, Sr.; Jay Bellamy, SS, 5-11/190, Sr.; Keif Bryant, E, 6-4/270, Jr.; Jamil Jackson, LB, 5-11/249, Sr.; Malik Jackson, FS, 6-2/234, Sr.; Bob Sneathen, LB, 6-1/225, Jr.; Mike Spitzer, NT (will move to OG), 6-4/295, Sr.; Ibrahim Washington, NT, 6-2/245, Soph. **Kickers (2):** John Benestad, K, 5-11/200, Sr.; David Lipetz, P, 5-11/173, Jr.

Other key returnees: Marco Battaglia, TE, Soph.; Mario Henry, WR, Sr.; Ray Lucas, QB, Soph.; Bruce Presley, RB, Soph.; Keith Price, CB, Jr.; Shaun Smith, SS, Sr.; George Stewart, LB, Sr.; Ed Walker, WR, Soph.

Top newcomers: Robert Barr, OT, Jr. (JC); Mike Craig, OT, Fr.; Shawn Devlin, DT, Fr. (RS); Steve Harper, WR, Fr.; Jared Slovan, K/P, Fr.; T.J. Spiz-zo, DT, Fr. (RS); Rusty Swartz, LB, Fr. (RS); Rashod Swinger, DT, Fr. (RS); Curtis Tribbitt, DB, Soph. (Prop 48); Terrell Willis, RB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Colgate, Sept. 4; Duke, Sept. 11; at Penn State, Sept. 25; Temple, Oct. 2; Boston College, Oct. 9; at Army, Oct. 16; at Virginia Tech, Oct. 23; Pittsburgh, Oct. 28; at West Virginia, Nov. 6; at Miami (Fla.), Nov. 13; Syracuse, Nov. 26.

Nickname: Scarlet Knights.

Site: New Brunswick, N.J.

Outlook: The Scarlet Knights went 7-4 last season and felt they were snubbed when they didn't get a bowl bid. Some bowl representatives said Rutgers suffers from a lack of fan support. The school recently formed the RU Bowl Bound Club, complete with a savings account at a local bank where Rutgers fans can make monthly deposits to en-

sure themselves of funds if the Scarlet Knights earn a bowl bid this year. They haven't received one since the 1978 season.

Offensive strengths: Rutgers has the best 1-2 punch at quarterback and running back in the league. Senior Bryan Fortay and sophomore Ray Lucas will share the quarterback spot. Sophomore Bruce Presley and redshirt freshman blazer Terrell Willis will alternate at running back. After scoring 19 points per game in 1991, Rutgers averaged 31 points last season, which ranked second in the conference and tied for 12th in the nation.

Offensive weaknesses: The offense is explosive but inconsistent, which may be a result of the two-quarterback system. Lucas and Fortay combined to throw 20 touchdown passes and 19 interceptions in '92. The Scarlet Knights cashed in on just 34 percent of their third-down conversions and were outscored, 76-33, in the first quarter.

Defensive strengths: After years of getting pushed around up front, Rutgers finally has some legitimate Division I-A linemen, led by end Keif Bryant. Rutgers has as good a tandem in the league with Jay Bellamy at strong safety and Malik Jackson at free safety.

Defensive weaknesses: In each of the last two seasons, the Scarlet Knights have had an impact outside linebacker in Elnardo Webster and then Shawn Williams. The coaching staff spent the spring searching for a replacement and came up dry. Williams had six sacks last season. The rest of the team had 13, which doesn't bode well for a team that surrendered 37 or more points four times last year.

Special teams: For the last three years, Travis Broadbent has been the snapper and Jim Guarantano has been the holder. Neither player returns. Coach Doug Graber, a former NFL assistant, said Guarantano is the best holder he has ever seen, college or pro. The punting was so erratic in '92 that Rutgers recruited kicker/punter Jared Slovan, despite the return of junior David Lipetz. John Benestad, who led Rutgers in scoring for the second time in three seasons last year, is a good kicker.

Key to success: Keeping the defense off the field as much as possible.

Sure sign of trouble: A slow start. Four of Rutgers' first five games are at home, and the Scarlet Knights have a chance to win their first eight. With their final three games at West Virginia, at Miami (Fla.) and at home vs. Syracuse, the Knights will go another year without a bowl bid if they don't start fast.

Coach Doug Graber says: "This team has a chip on its shoulder. Walking into that meeting room last year and telling them there was no bowl bid was the toughest thing I've had to do as a coach. We think we've got something to prove."

5 WEST VIRGINIA

Coach: Don Nehlen (92-55-4, 13 years; 145-90-8 overall, 22 years).

1992 record: 5-4-2, Big East: 2-3-1/5th.

Key losses: Leroy Axem, CB; Tom Briggs, DE; John Cappa, TE; Mike Compton, C; Rick Dolly, DT; Boris

Continued

Graham, DE; James Jett, WR; Adrian Murrell, TB; Kwame Smith, CB; Lorenzo Styles, OG; Mike Vanderjagt, K.

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Rich Braham, T, 6-5/260, Sr.; Calvin Edwards, T, 6-4/285, Jr.; Ed Hill, WR, 6-4/190, Sr.; Jake Kelchner, QB, 6-2/210, Sr.; Darren Studstill, QB, 6-2/185, Sr.; Dale Williams, G, 6-2/258, Sr.; Rodney Woodard, FB, 6-0/230, Jr. **Defense (7):** Tim Brown, LB, 6-0/210, Sr.; Mike Collins, SS, 5-11/190, Sr.; Barry Hawkins, T, 6-5/260, Jr.; David Mayfield, FS, 5-11/185, Jr.; Wes Richardson, LB, 6-2/229, Sr.; Matt Taffoni, LB, 6-0/218, Jr.; Darrick Wiley, LB, 6-4/225, Sr.

Kickers (1): Todd Sauerbrun, K/P, 6-0/195, Jr. **Other key returnees:** Mike Baker, WR, Sr. (RS/foot); Aaron Beasley, CB, Soph.; Daymeian Gallimore, WR, Soph.; Scott Gaskins, DT, Sr.; Jon Jones, TB, Sr.; Jay Kearney, WR, Sr.; Jim LeBlanc, OG, Sr. (RS/shoulder); Tommy Orr, CB, Sr.; Robert Walker, TB, Soph.; James (Puppy) Wright, LB, Jr.

Top newcomers: Frank Browning, LB, Jr. (JC); John Browning, DE, Soph. (Prop 48); Canute Curtis, LB, Fr. (RS); Charles Emanuel, CB, Fr. (RS); Jimmy Gary, TB, Soph. (RS); Elige Longino, LB, Fr. (RS); John Loving, DT, Jr. (JC); Rashaan Vanterpool, WR, Fr. (RS); Vann Washington, FS, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Eastern Michigan, Sept. 4; at Maryland, Sept. 18; Missouri, Sept. 25; Virginia Tech, Oct. 2; Louisville, Oct. 9; Pittsburgh, Oct. 23; at Syracuse, Oct. 30; Rutgers, Nov. 6; at Temple, Nov. 13; Miami (Fla.), Nov. 20; at Boston College, Nov. 26.

Nickname: Mountaineers.

Site: Morgantown, W.Va.

Outlook: Ever since West Virginia went 11-1 in 1988 and lost the national championship to Notre Dame in the 1989 Fiesta Bowl, it's been all downhill for the Mountaineers. In the off-season, Coach Don Nehlen juggled his staff and tinkered with his defensive alignment. West Virginia will use a version of the 4-3 this season. Nehlen hopes the changes work, because a losing season will put his job in jeopardy.

Offensive strengths: West Virginia can match its skill players with any team in the conference. Three terrific backs—Jon Jones, Jimmy Gary and Robert Walker—are ready to replace the departed Adrian Murrell. If Mike Baker's broken foot is fully healed, West Virginia's receivers could match those at Miami (Fla.) and Syracuse.

Offensive weaknesses: Nehlen has experimented with some three-receiver, one-back sets and the shotgun, but the experiment will blow up in his face if the line doesn't stabilize. All-America center Mike Compton is gone, as is solid guard Lorenzo Styles. Compounding matters is the fact that two players, Jim LeBlanc (two shoulder surgeries) and Calvin Edwards (broken leg), are overcoming injuries.

Defensive strengths: West Virginia goes two deep at almost every linebacker spot, and Mike Collins and David Mayfield give the Mountaineers a great 1-2 punch at the safety positions.

Defensive weaknesses: The front four lacks depth and an impact player. John Browning, a highly touted recruit who sat out last season under Proposition 48 guidelines, could be a dominating player. But you know you're in trouble if a first-year player holds the key to success.

Special teams: Punter Todd Sauerbrun is the best in the league, and West Virginia ranked eighth in the country last season in kickoff returns, thanks to Daymeian Gallimore's 28.1-yard return average. A dependable replacement for kicker Mike Vanderjagt must be found. Sauerbrun will get the first crack.



On the move: Ken Brown will switch from inside to outside linebacker in Virginia Tech's new 4-3 scheme.

Key to success: Three of the last five games are against Syracuse, Miami and Boston College. With all of the changes, it might be tough for West Virginia to start quickly, but it must or the season could be a bust.

Sure signs of trouble: If quarterback Jake Kelchner's surgically repaired elbow gets hit, West Virginia's plans to open up the passing game will go out the window. Additionally, the defense will have to put pressure on the quarterback without blitzing.

Coach Don Nehlen says: "We were within a whisker of having a great season last year but we made some mistakes, got some people hurt and faced some circumstances that didn't go our way. Despite the record, though, we're a good football team."

6 VIRGINIA TECH

Coach: Frank Beamer (22-32-1, 6 years; 64-55-3 overall, 12 years).

1992 record: 2-8-1, Big East: 1-4/7th.

Key losses: Kirk Alexander, S; Melendez Byrd, LB; Don Davis, DT; Vaughn Hebron, TB; Tony Kennedy, TB; Rusty Pendleton, LB; Mark Poindexter, FB; Jerome Preston, DT; Marc Verniel, OT.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** John Burke, TE, 6-3/253, Sr.; Maurice DeShazo, QB, 6-1/192, Jr.; Antonio Freeman, SE, 6-1/185, Jr.; Jared Hamlin, G, 6-3/294, Soph.; Chris Malone, G, 6-3/275, Soph.; Jim Pyne, C, 6-2/280, Sr.; Steve Sanders, FL, 5-8/162, Sr.; Mike Smith, T, 6-7/283, Jr. **Defense (6):** Bernard Basham, E, 6-6/260, Sr.; Ken Brown, LB, 6-2/232, Jr.; Tyrone Drakeford, CB, 5-10/187, Sr.; Stacy Henley, FS, 6-0/188, Jr.; P.J. Preston, LB, 6-2/223, Sr.; Billy Swarm, E, 6-3/232, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Robbie Colley, P, 6-1/232, Jr.; Ryan Williams, K, 6-4/265, Jr.

Other key returnees: Chris Barry, OT, Sr.; Chris Breheny, DT, Sr.; George DelRicco, LB, Soph.; Mike Hodges, FB, Sr. (RS/knee); DeWayne Knight, LB, Sr.; Treg Koel, QB, Sr.; Eugene Mays, DT, Soph.; Damien McMahon, OG, Jr.; J.C. Price, DT, Soph.; Joe Swarm, FB, Sr.; Dwayne Thomas, TB, Soph.; Rhasheyd Williams, TE, Soph. (did not play in 1992).

Top newcomers: Kenny Bailey, LB, Fr. (RS); Brad Baylor, OL/DL, Fr.; Cornell Brown, LB, Fr.; Jim Druckenmiller, QB, Fr. (RS); Danny Dunbar, CB, Fr. (RS); Tommy Edwards, TB, Fr. (RS); Torrian Gray, FS, Fr. (RS); Larry Green, WR/QB, Fr.; Bryan Jennings, TE, Fr.

Schedule: Bowling Green State, Sept. 4; at Pittsburgh, Sept. 11; at Miami (Fla.), Sept. 18; Maryland, Sept. 25; at West Virginia, Oct. 2; Temple, Oct. 16; Rutgers, Oct. 23; East Carolina, Oct. 30; at Boston College, Nov. 6; Syracuse, Nov. 13; at Virginia, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Hokies.

Site: Blacksburg, Va.

Outlook: After a 2-8-1 season that saw the Hokies lose five games in which they held fourth-quarter leads, a major overhaul took place in Blacksburg. The wide-tackle-six defense was junked for the 4-3. Four assistant coaches were fired and Phil Elmassian, who coached at Syracuse last year, was brought in as the new defensive coordinator. He is trying to instill a more aggressive attitude.

Offensive strengths: Led by center Jim Pyne, Virginia Tech's line should make life easier for maturing quarterback Maurice DeShazo and tailbacks Dwayne Thomas and Tommy Edwards. Pyne is a relentless blocker, and sophomore guard Jared Hamlin is a star of the future.

Offensive weaknesses: Thomas and Edwards have potential, but can they replace the very effective tandem of Vaughn Hebron and Tony Kennedy? DeShazo should be improved, but he's not ready to carry this team. The Hokies' passing offense ranked seventh in the league last season when DeShazo and Treg Koel combined for 14 touchdowns and 16 interceptions.

Defensive strengths: The Hokies possess several impact players who can turn around a game, including Tyrone Drakeford, the league's most talented cornerback. Linebacker Ken Brown moves inside in the 4-3, and watch for the emergence of sophomore tackle Eugene Mays.

Defensive weaknesses: Inconsistency led to Virginia Tech yielding a lot of points (25.6 per game) last season. The wide-tackle-six is obsolete, but how long will it take for the players to master the new 4-3?

Special teams: The Hokies should be solid in this category, although finding a return specialist who can really scare the opposition would help. Kicker Ryan Williams, who converted 12 of 18 field-goal attempts, returns. Punter Robbie Colley needs to improve his 38.1-yard average.

Key to success: Since the defense will lack confidence as it adapts to a new scheme, it's essential that the offensive line dominates so the Hokies' ground game can eat the clock and keep the defense off the field.

Sure sign of trouble: If Virginia Tech blows a fourth-quarter lead early in the season, it could go into the tank after being burned so many times last season.

Coach Frank Beamer says: "I've never gone through a season like we went through last year and I hope I never do again. I think it will make us stronger. The kind of losses we had last season are hard to forget, but this team showed remarkable resiliency."

7 PITTSBURGH

Coach: Johnny Majors (33-13-1 at Pitt from 1973-76; 173-105-10 overall, 25 years).

1992 record: 3-9. Big East: 1-3/6th.

Key losses: Shawn Abinet, LB; Sean Conley, K; Rob Coons, TE; Gary Gorajewski, OG; Carl Hagins, FB; Vernon Lewis, CB; Mike LiVorio, OT; Lex Perkins, FS; Chris Sestili, C; Leon Theodorou, P; Alex Van Pelt, QB.

Starters returning: Offense (5): Reuben Brown, T, 6-4/310, Jr. (status uncertain; suspended in off-season); Bill Davis, FL, 6-2/195, Jr.; Dietrich Jells, SE, 6-1/175, Jr.; Curtis Martin, TB, 6-0/190, Jr.; Lawson Mollica, G, 6-4/275, Jr. Defense (8): Tom Barndt, T, 6-4/280, Jr.; Jason Chavis, LB, 6-2/240, Soph.; Mike Halapin, E, 6-5/260, Soph.; Matt Hosilyk, T, 6-4/275, Soph.; Derrick Parker, CB, 5-8/170, Jr.; Gerald Simpson, LB, 6-3/215, Soph.; Doug Whaley, SS, 5-11/185, Sr.; Charles Williams, LB, 6-3/260, Sr. Kickers: None.

Other key returns: Chad Askew, WR, Jr.; Raymond Belvin, TE, Soph.; Matt Bloom, OT, Jr.; Lyrion Brooks, FB, Soph.; Tim Colicchio, TB, Jr.; Anthony Dorsett, FS (will move to CB), Soph.; Chad Dukes, RB, Sr.; Ken Ferguson, QB, Soph.; Chris Hupko, FS, Jr.; Jay Jones, CB, Soph.; John Ryan, QB, Soph.; Dell Seagraves, LB, Soph.; Chad Skrocki, TE, Soph. (RS/hand); David Sumner, SS, Soph.; Tom Tumulty, LB, Soph. (RS/chest); Jermaine Williams, TB, Sr.

Top newcomers: Curtis Anderson, WR, Fr. (RS); Pedro Gonzalez, QB, Fr.; John Jenkins, DB, Fr.; John Marzoch, OL, Fr.; Blaine Mensch, OL, Fr.; Mike Mohring, DL, Fr. (RS); Jason Soboleski, LB, Fr.

Schedule: At Southern Mississippi, Sept. 4; Virginia Tech, Sept. 11; Ohio State, Sept. 18; Louisville, Oct. 2; at Notre Dame, Oct. 9; Syracuse, Oct. 16; at West Virginia, Oct. 23; at Rutgers, Oct. 28; Miami (Fla.), Nov. 6; Boston College, Nov. 13; at Temple, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Panthers.
Site: Pittsburgh.

Outlook: What this program needs more than anything is stability, and maybe Johnny Majors can provide some. In 1973, Majors became the coach at Pittsburgh and three years later led the Panthers to the national championship. Now, after 16 years at his alma mater (Tennessee), Majors returns to Pitt and brings with him a new staff and optimism.

Offensive strengths: In Curtis Martin, Tim Colicchio, Jermaine Williams and Chad Dukes, Pitt has as talented a corps of running backs as there is in the conference. Dukes, the cousin of former Boston College running back Chuckie Dukes, is fourth on the depth chart but he averaged a team-high 5.7 yards per carry last year.

Offensive weaknesses: For the first time in four seasons, the Panthers enter the fall without Alex Van Pelt as their starting quarterback. Quarterbacks John Ryan and Ken Ferguson had the makings of a decent line to work behind, until tackle Reuben Brown was suspended following off-season problems.

Defensive strengths: The secondary has some real talent. Anthony Dorsett, the son of former Pitt great Tony Dorsett, moves from free safety to cornerback. Chris Hupko will start at free safety and David Sumner has beaten out Doug Whaley, last year's starter, at strong safety. Linebacker Tom Tumulty, who missed virtually all of last sea-

son with a torn chest muscle, returns.

Defensive weaknesses: Pitt has switched to a 4-3 scheme this season in an attempt to put more pressure on the quarterback. The Panthers ranked last in the league in sacks (1.1 per game) and scoring defense (35.8 points) last season.

Specials teams: The Panthers were atrocious in '92 in this department, ranking last in the Big East in kickoff and punt returns, as well as in punting. A new kicker and punter must be found.

Key to success: The ground game will have to take the burden off the young quarterbacks. If Pitt can run the ball, it also would open up the play-action pass for speedy wide receivers Dietrich Jells and Chad Askew.

Sure sign of trouble: If true freshman Pedro Gonzalez becomes the starting quarterback. He's good, but he's not ready to face a schedule that includes Miami (Fla.), Syracuse, Notre Dame and Ohio State.

Coach Johnny Majors says: "Coming back to coach at Pitt is one of the most exciting challenges a person could have. Certainly, it is our objective to improve the win-loss record, and with the imposing schedule that will face us, our work is cut out."

8 TEMPLE

Coach: Ron Dickerson (first year as head coach).

1992 record: 1-10. Big East: 0-6/8th.

Key losses: John Bognanno, LB; Joe Burgos, OG; Efrain Cabrera, RB; Keita Crespina, CB; Scott Dennis, LB; Brian Erwin, OG; Roman Hale, LB; Jerold Jeffcoat, NG; Sam Jenkins, RB; Daryl Nelson, SS; David Schlagel, DT; Chris Shanley, C.

Starters returning: Offense (7): Jeff Frederick, HB, 5-8/160, Jr.; Tre Johnson, T, 6-3/300, Sr.; Lew Lawhorn, SE, 5-10/155, Jr.; Chris Paliscak, QB, 6-4/195, Jr.; John Summerday, C, 6-3/285, Soph.; Glenn Tinner, T, 6-4/270, Sr.; Wilbur Washington, SE, 5-10/170, Sr. Defense (3): Tony Angelo, FS, 6-1/185, Sr.; Adrian Drones, E, 6-1/240, Jr.; Kyle Glasper, CB, 5-9/160, Sr. Kickers (2): Richard Maston, K, 5-11/210, Jr.; John Shay, P, 6-0/200, Soph.



Ready for action: If Pitt can run, it would open up the play-action pass for speedy receiver Dietrich Jells.

Other key returns: Marc Baxter, QB (will move to WR), Soph.; Peter Cook, TE, Sr.; Lance Johnstone, LB, Soph.; Ralphiel Mack, HB, Jr.; Robert McWilliams, CB, Soph.; Sidney Morse, FB, Jr.; Chris Paliscak, QB, Jr.; Larry Walding, TE (will move to QB), Soph.

Top newcomers: Bill Hetler, DB, Fr.; Phil Lang, QB, Jr. (RS/JC); Greg Moylan, QB, Fr. (RS); Alshemond Singleton, LB, Fr.; Barry Williams, HB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Eastern Michigan, Sept. 9; California, Sept. 18; at Boston College, Sept. 25; at Rutgers, Oct. 2; Army, Oct. 9; at Virginia Tech, Oct. 16; Akron, Oct. 23; at Miami (Fla.), Oct. 30; at Syracuse, Nov. 6; West Virginia, Nov. 13; Pittsburgh, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Owls.
Site: Philadelphia.

Outlook: Ron Dickerson will try to accomplish what Bruce Arians and Jerry Berndt were unable to: establish a winning football program in Philadelphia. Temple hasn't defeated a Division I-AA school since 1991. After beating Division I-AA Boston University in last year's opener, Temple lost 10 straight games and was outscored, 383-97.

Offensive strengths: There is some talent on the line, starting with tackle Tre Johnson and center John Summerday. But the unit lacks depth and must improve its strength. Receivers Lew Lawhorn and Marc Baxter give Temple players who can score from anywhere on the field.

Offensive weaknesses: Last year, four different quarterbacks combined to throw 28 interceptions and just four touchdowns. The position is so weak that Dickerson brought in one junior college quarterback who has a chance to win the starting job and moved tight end Larry Walding to quarterback.

Defensive strengths: Linebacker Lance Johnstone is the best player the Owls possess. He tied for the league lead in sacks (nine) and made 71 tackles. Kyle Glasper is an outstanding cornerback.

Defensive weaknesses: Dickerson took one look at his team in the weight room and promptly labeled it the weakest squad in America. He has implemented a crash strength-and-speed course. The deficiencies are most glaring on the defensive front, where the Owls got pushed around like feather pillows last year.

Special teams: This is one area where Temple can match up against any team in the conference. Lawhorn was the league's best kick returner and Baxter is a top punt returner. Sophomore punter John Shay must improve his 32.9-yard average. Richard Maston hit four of six field-goal attempts.

Key to success: The quality of Dickerson's first recruiting class will be evaluated quickly. He has vowed not to redshirt any freshmen. How many start at Eastern Michigan in the opener will be an indication if Temple has upgraded its talent level.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Owls are forced to play musical chairs at quarterback, it's going to be another long season.

Coach Ron Dickerson says: "Looking at our team, I see a hungry bunch of players that really want to win. I believe Temple's football program has great potential. We must improve our physical strength. Another strength will be the newness of everything." ■

SCOUTING THE BIG EAST

Ascending: Rutgers and Boston College. The Scarlet Knights have posted consecutive winning seasons for the first time since 1979 and '80. Eagles Coach Tom Coughlin's decision to spurn the NFL and stay in Chestnut Hill will keep his program climbing.

Descending: West Virginia. The Mountaineers are 15-16-2 over the last three years and haven't posted a major win since beating Syracuse, 24-17, in the final game of the 1989 regular season.

Nightmare schedule: Pittsburgh. Without a proven quarterback and an offensive line that's in shambles, the Panthers play non-conference games at Southern Mississippi and at Notre Dame, while hosting Ohio State and Louisville. In league play, Pitt hosts Syracuse, Miami and Boston College, but it must travel to Rutgers.

Dream schedule: Rutgers. The schedule is soft early and tough late, so the Scarlet Knights should be at their best when they play the best.

Best matchup of the year: Syracuse at Miami, October 23. The Orangemen want revenge for last year's near miss, but Miami should be gunning for win No. 54 in a row at home when Syracuse visits.

Worst matchup of the year: Temple at Miami, October 30. Last year, the Owls got plucked, 48-0, in Miami. The Hurricanes will be coming off back-to-back games against Florida State and Syracuse, so they'll be ready for a breather.

Shocker of the year: Mark it down: The biggest win in the Doug Graber era at Rutgers will come on September 25 at Penn State. The Scarlet Knights pulled the upset in Happy Valley in 1988.

Bowl bound: Syracuse, Miami, Boston College and Rutgers.

Biggest shoes to fill: All eyes will be on Miami quarterback Frank Costa, who takes over for Heisman Trophy winner Gino Torretta. He's being called "Costaverde" because of his resemblance to former Miami quarterback Vinny Testaverde. Hurricane fans hope he doesn't play like Testaverde did in Miami's 14-10 loss to Penn State in the 1987 Fiesta Bowl, a defeat that cost the Hurricanes the '86 national title.

Most underrated player: Miami Coach Dennis Erickson wondered before last year's game against the Orangemen how the Hurricanes let Syracuse cornerback Dwayne Joseph of Carol City, Fla., get away. A starter since his freshman year, Joseph, a senior, has broken up 21 passes in his career.

Impact newcomers: Curtis Anderson, WR, Pittsburgh, Fr. (RS); Cornell Brown, LB, Virginia Tech, Fr.; John Browning,

DE, West Virginia, Soph. (Prop 48); Danny Dunbar, CB, Virginia Tech, Fr. (RS); Jammi German, WR, Miami, Fr.; Steve Harper, WR, Rutgers, Fr.; Bill Hetler, DB, Temple, Fr.; K.C. Jones, C, Miami, Fr.

(RS); Mike Mohring, DL, Pittsburgh, Fr. (RS); Alshermund Singleton, LB, Temple, Fr.; Ken Thomas, LB, Syracuse, Fr. (RS); Malcom Thomas, TB, Syracuse, Fr. (RS); Rahsaan Vanterpool, WR, West Virginia, Fr. (RS); Terrell Willis, RB, Rutgers, Fr. (RS).

Coach of the year: Paul Pasqualoni, Syracuse. In two years with the Orangemen, he's 20-4 with bowl victories over Ohio State and Colorado. If Syracuse tops Miami for league honors, there's no doubt Pasqualoni is the Big East's top coach.

Coach on the hot seat: Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech. He

could be sharing this seat with West Virginia's Don Nehlen, but the Mountaineer boss has enjoyed some prior success and has a \$1 million firing clause in his contract to fall back on. Beamer was forced to hire four new full-time assistants after his team blew fourth-quarter leads in five games (0-4-1).

Best bets: Expect some Rutgers fans to bring toilet bowl replicas to Giants Stadium for the Scarlet Knights' October 9 game against Boston College. After the Eagles beat Rutgers, 37-20, in last season's opener, Eagles quarterback Glenn Foley, a New Jersey native, said the only bowl the Scarlet Knights would be going to that year is the one he just got off. Foley had just come from the bathroom. . . . The buildup for West Virginia's game at Syracuse on October 30 will be similar to that of a heavyweight title fight. Four players were ejected following a late-game brawl in last season's meeting that resulted in a controversial Syracuse victory that left the Mountaineers fuming.

Odds and ends: Temple Coach Ron Dickerson said he won't redshirt any freshmen this season. . . . The Scarlet Knights will play all of their home games at Giants Stadium while Rutgers Stadium undergoes a multi-million dollar expansion and renovation. . . . Miami has seven players named Jones, including two receivers named Chris Jones. . . . The Big East's third-place team will play in the Sunshine Football Classic (formerly the Blockbuster Bowl). . . . West Virginia's top recruit in 1992 was defensive end John Browning, who sat out last year under Proposition 48 guidelines. He could start this season. His cousin, Frank Browning, has transferred to West Virginia from junior college, and he could start at linebacker. It's a family affair. . . . Speaking of family affairs, redshirt freshman Twan Russell could see significant playing time at linebacker for Miami. His father, Tony Russell, is the focal point of the U.S. attorney general's investigation into alleged Pell Grant fraud.

—LENN ROBBINS

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive line:

Virginia Tech

Best offensive backfield:

Syracuse

Best backup quarterback:

Ray Lucas, Rutgers

Best wide receivers:

Miami

Best clutch receiver:

Shelby Hill, Syracuse

Best defensive line:

Miami

Best-hitting defensive lineman:

Kevin Mitchell, Syracuse

Best linebackers:

West Virginia

Best-hitting linebacker:

Robert Bass, Miami

Best secondary:

Miami

Best-hitting defensive back:

David Mayfield, West Virginia

Best kicking game:

Syracuse

Best kick-coverage units:

Rutgers

Best coaching staff:

Syracuse

Best coach:

Dennis Erickson, Miami

Best Heisman candidate:

Marvin Graves, QB, Syracuse

Best pro prospect:

Jim Pyne, C, Virginia Tech

RETURNING LEADERS

Rushing: Tim Colicchio, Pittsburgh, 74.3 yds./game (139 att., 743 yds., 2 TDs, 5.3 avg.).

Passing efficiency: Marvin Graves, Syracuse, 149.2 rating pts. (242 att., 146 comp., 2,296 yds., 14 TDs).

Total offense: Marvin Graves, Syracuse, 220.8 yds./game (133 yds. rushing, 2,296 yds. passing, 2,429 total yds.).

Receiving: Dietrich Jells, Pittsburgh, 4.6 rec./game (55 rec., 1,091 yds., 8 TDs., 19.8 avg.).

Scoring: Dane Prewitt, Miami, 7.1 pts./game (0 TDs, 39 PATs, 13 FGs, 78 pts.).

Punting: Todd Sauerbrun, West Virginia, 44.3 avg. (53 punts, 2,348 yds.).

Punt returns: Shelby Hill, Syracuse, 9.3 avg. (19 att., 177 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Lew Lawhorn, Temple, 30.0 avg. (20 att., 600 yds., 2 TDs).

Field goals: Sean Conley, Pittsburgh, 1.3 FG/game (16/19 FGs, 84%).

Interceptions: Tyrone Drakeford, Virginia Tech, 0.64 int./game (7 int., 121 yds., 1 TD).



Deadly Owl: Temple's Lew Lawhorn returned two kickoffs for touchdowns last season.

Big Eight's well of 'name' backs is drying up

By JOHN HENDERSON

Denver Post

If you're looking for great running backs in the Big Eight Conference this year, don't bother following the trail of National Football League scouts. Buy a program instead. That's the only way you'll be able to recognize some of these guys.

The league's traditional well of great running backs has nearly run dry. With Derek Brown's early defection to the NFL, Nebraska teammate Calvin Jones is the only returning Big Eight back anyone but a mother would recognize. After Jones, the league's defending rushing champion at 110 yards a game, the top returnee is Iowa State's Chris Ulrich, who averaged a paltry 47.4 yards per game.

The next two returnees, Oklahoma's Earnest Williams (46.7) and Colorado's Lamont Warren (46.5), may not even start this fall.

Iowa State Coach Jim Walden has a three-letter reason for the dearth of top-flight Big Eight running backs.

"A-C-T," he said. "The stat they keep telling you is Prop 48 is working. But in reality, Prop 48 isn't working. You take 1,000 kids and yes, grades may be up. But the area that's down would be running backs."

Others contend the dropoff began about two years ago, when league teams began throwing the football more than ever before. Last year, Big Eight teams threw for 15,996 yards and rushed for 14,681, the first time since the league was formed in 1907 that its teams combined for more yards passing than rushing.

"That's kind of the trend of college football," Oklahoma State Coach Pat Jones said. "They're featuring more spread offenses with one back, and they're throwing the ball."

It's not that there are no good running backs in the Big Eight. It's just that nobody's heard of them. Take Oklahoma, the school of Heisman Trophy winners Steve Owens and Billy Sims. Williams must beat out Jeff Frazier, a highly touted redshirt freshman, and James Allen, rated the top high school running back in the country last season, to keep his job.

"Oklahoma has more running backs than anyone in the country," Colorado Coach Bill McCartney said. "They've recruited three or four top ones three years in a row. I don't know where they all are."

The league may find out this year.

1 NEBRASKA

Coach: Tom Osborne (195-46-3, 20 years).

1992 record: 9-3 (lost to Florida State in Orange Bowl). Big Eight: 6-1/1st.

Key losses: Derek Brown, RB (declared for NFL draft); Tyrone Byrd, FS; Steve Carmer, SS; Vincent Hawkins, WR; Travis Hill, LB; Lance Lewis, FB; John Parrella, DT; Jim Scott, C; Will Shields, G; Mike Stigge, P; William Washington, TE; Kenny Wilhite, CB.

Starters returning: Offense (6): Corey Dixon, SE, 5-8/155, Sr.; Tommie Frazier, QB, 6-2/200, Soph.; Calvin Jones, RB, 5-11/210, Jr.; Lance Lundberg, T, 6-4/300, Sr.; Ken Mehlin, G (will move to C), 6-

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. NEBRASKA
2. COLORADO
3. OKLAHOMA
4. KANSAS
5. OKLAHOMA STATE
6. MISSOURI
7. IOWA STATE
8. KANSAS STATE

0/270, Sr.; Zach Wiegert, T, 6-5/310, Jr. Defense (6): Trev Alberts, LB, 6-4/230, Sr.; Mike Anderson, LB, 6-2/235, Sr.; Bruce Moore, T (will move to LB), 6-6/240, Sr.; David Noonan, NG, 6-3/275, Sr.; John Reece, CB, 6-0/200, Sr.; Ed Stewart, LB, 6-0/205, Jr. Kickers (1): Byron Bennett, K/P, 6-1/180, Sr.

Other key returnees: Gerald Armstrong, TE, Sr.; Ernie Beler, SS, Sr.; Trumane Bell, SE, Sr.; Troy Branch, LB, Sr.; Doug Colman, LB, Soph. (RS); Terry Connealy, NG, Jr.; Troy Dumas, FS, Jr.; Dave Fiala, FB,



He's the man: With the I-back job to himself, Nebraska's Calvin Jones is a leading Heisman candidate.

Sr.; Joel Gesky, OT, Jr.; Aaron Graham, C, Soph.; Jerad Higman, LB, Jr.; Donta Jones, LB, Jr.; Jeff Makovicka, RB, Jr.; Barron Miles, CB, Jr.; Abdul Muhammad, WR, Jr.; Steve Ott, G, Soph.; Cory Schlesinger, FB, Jr.; Brenden Stai, G, Sr.; Tony Vealand, QB, Soph.; Billy Wade, DT, Sr.; Joel Wilks, G, Jr.; Darren Williams, LB, Sr.; Toby Wright, SS, Sr.; Rob Zatechka, G/T, Jr.

Top newcomers: Reggie Baul, SE, Soph. (RS); Damon Benning, RB, Fr.; Chris Dishman, OT, Fr. (RS); Jason Jenkins, DT, Jr. (JC); Mike Minter, FS, Fr.; Christian Peter, MG, Soph. (RS); Ben Rutz, QB, Fr. (RS); Larry Townsend, DT, Fr. (RS); Riley Washington, WR, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: North Texas, Sept. 4; Texas Tech, Sept. 11; at UCLA, Sept. 18; Colorado State, Sept. 25; at Oklahoma State, Oct. 7; Kansas State, Oct. 16; Missouri, Oct. 23; at Colorado, Oct. 30; at Kansas, Nov. 6; Iowa State, Nov. 13; Oklahoma, Nov. 26.

Nickname: Cornhuskers.

Site: Lincoln, Neb.

Outlook: The best one-two punch in the country was cut in half when Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year Derek Brown turned pro a year early. But the one punch left, Calvin Jones, can knock out a lot of teams. The Cornhuskers are loaded everywhere, and sophomore quarterback Tommie Frazier will work behind probably the best offensive line in Tom Osborne's tenure as head coach. A soft schedule puts Nebraska on the short list of national title contenders.

Offensive strengths: Jones led the league in both rushing and scoring while sharing the I-back job with Brown. With the job to himself, he is a leading Heisman candidate.

Offensive weaknesses: There is little depth behind Jones. Backup Jeff Makovicka had 11 carries last year; fullback Cory Schlesinger 16. Freshman Damon Benning may get a good, long look at I-back.

Defensive strengths: Three starting linebackers, led by second-team All-America and Butkus Award candidate Trev Alberts, return to a defense that leaped from 49th nationally in 1991 to 24th last year. Bruce Moore is being moved from defensive tackle to linebacker.

Defensive weaknesses: Cornerback John Reece is the lone returnee in a rebuilt secondary that probably will include two sophomores and one junior.

Special teams: Byron Bennett, who has connected on 18 of 28 field goals the last two years, is a reliable place-kicker. He also may replace Mike Stigge, Nebraska's best punter ever.

Key to success: Frazier's continued development at quarterback. It will keep opposing defenses from keying too much on Jones.

Sure sign of trouble: If Jones gets hurt. Of course, with a non-league slate that includes North Texas, Texas Tech and Colorado State, Jones might not play more than a half in some games anyway.

Coach Tom Osborne says: "What is a successful season here is different than at a lot of schools. Here a nine-win season is treated with disdain. There are a lot of schools in the conference that have been fighting for 15 or 20 years to get to that level. It's all a matter of perception."

Continued

DIVISION I-A

BIG EIGHT

DIVISION I-A

TSN

PRESEASON ALL-BIG EIGHT TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Calvin Jones,
RB, Nebraska

DEFENSE



Keith Burns,
LB, Oklahoma State

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

Jeff Frazier, RB, Oklahoma

DEFENSE:

Perrell Gaskins, LB, Kansas State

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	MICHAEL WESTBROOK, Colorado	6-4/210	Jr.
WR	CHARLES JOHNSON, Colorado	6-1/185	Sr.
TE	CHRISTIAN FAURIA, Colorado	6-4/235	Jr.
T	LANCE LUNDBERG, Nebraska	6-4/300	Sr.
T	ZACH WIEGERT, Nebraska	6-5/310	Jr.
C	QUENTIN NEUJAH, Kansas State	6-4/285	Sr.
G	MIKE BEDOSKY, Missouri	6-5/288	Sr.
G	JOHN JONES, Kansas	6-2/285	Jr.
QB	KORDELL STEWART, Colorado	6-3/210	Jr.
RB	CALVIN JONES, Nebraska	5-11/210	Jr.
RB	CHRIS ULRICH, Iowa State	5-10/208	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	CHRIS MAUMALANGA, Kansas	6-3/290	Sr.
DL	TROY PETERSEN, Iowa State	6-4/271	Jr.
DL	JASON GILDON, Oklahoma State	6-4/230	Sr.
LB	KEITH BURNS, Oklahoma State	6-2/235	Sr.
LB	RON WOOLFORK, Colorado	6-4/240	Sr.
LB	TREV ALBERTS, Nebraska	6-4/230	Sr.
LB	AUBREY BEAVERS, Oklahoma	6-2/232	Sr.
DB	CHRIS HUDSON, Colorado	5-11/190	Jr.
DB	KWAMIE LASSITER, Kansas	6-1/175	Sr.
DB	JAIME MENDEZ, Kansas State	6-0/200	Sr.
DB	SCOTT HARMON, Oklahoma State	5-8/190	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	DAN EICHLOFF, Kansas	6-0/215	Sr.
P	MITCH BERGER, Colorado	6-3/220	Sr.
AP	JAMES McMILLION, Iowa State	5-9/175	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	KENNY HOLLY, Missouri	6-0/178	Sr.
WR	SHANNON CULVER, Oklahoma State	5-10/150	Sr.
TE	DWAYNE CHANDLER, Kansas	6-3/240	Sr.
T	DOUG SKARTVEDT, Iowa State	6-3/290	Sr.
T	MATT JOSE, Oklahoma State	6-4/290	Sr.
C	BRYAN STOLTENBERG, Colorado	6-2/280	Soph.
G	JEFF RESLER, Oklahoma	6-2/267	Jr.
G	HESSLEY HEMPSTEAD, Kansas	6-1/287	Jr.
QB	TOMMIE FRAZIER, Nebraska	6-2/200	Soph.
RB	JEFF FRAZIER, Oklahoma	6-2/207	Fr.
RB	JAMES HILL, Colorado	6-0/210	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	GREG WILKINS, Oklahoma	6-3/279	Soph.
DL	TODD MILLER, Iowa State	6-4/252	Sr.
DL	JOHN BUTLER, Kansas State	6-2/230	Sr.
LB	MIKE COATS, Oklahoma	6-0/230	Sr.
LB	LARRY THIEL, Kansas	6-3/220	Sr.
LB	TED JOHNSON, Colorado	6-4/235	Jr.
LB	ED STEWART, Nebraska	6-0/205	Jr.
DB	DWAYNE DAVIS, Colorado	6-2/205	Sr.
DB	KEVIN MCINTOSH, Missouri	6-0/175	Jr.
DB	THOMAS RANDOLPH, Kansas State	5-10/180	Sr.
DB	KEVIN FULTON, Iowa State	6-1/193	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	SCOTT BLANTON, Oklahoma	6-2/211	Jr.
P	SCOTT TYNER, Oklahoma State	6-1/190	Sr.

2 COLORADO

Coach: Bill McCartney (74-51-4, 11 years).

1992 record: 9-2-1 (lost to Syracuse in Fiesta Bowl). Big Eight: 5-1-1/2nd.

Key losses: Greg Blekert, LB; Ronnie Bradford, CB; Chad Brown, LB; Marcellous Elder, DT; Deon Figures, CB; Jim Hansen, OT; Leonard Renfro, DT (declared for NFL draft).

Starters returning: Offense (10): T.J. Cunningham, FL, 6-0/190, Soph.; Christian Fauria, TE, 6-4/235, Jr.; Chad Hammond, G, 6-4/275, Soph.; Charles Johnson, SE, 6-1/185, Sr.; Clint Moore, G, 6-4/295, Jr.; Kordell Stewart, QB, 6-3/210, Jr.; Bryan Stoltzenberg, C, 6-2/280, Soph.; Lamont Warren, TB, 6-1/195, Jr.; Derek West, T, 6-8/295, Jr.; Michael Westbrook, WR, 6-4/210, Jr. Defense (5): Shannon Clavelle, T, 6-4/270, Soph.; Dwayne Davis, FS, 6-2/205, Sr.; Chris Hudson, CB, 5-11/190, Jr.; Ted Johnson, LB, 6-4/235, Jr.; Ron Woolfork, LB, 6-4/240, Sr. Kickers (1): Mitch Berger, P/K, 6-3/220, Sr.

Other key returnees: Craig Anderson, OG, Sr.; Tony Berti, OT, Jr.; Jeff Brunner, NT, Sr.; Rae Carruth, WR, Soph.; Dennis Collier, CB, Sr.; Brian Dyet, DT, Sr.; Sean Embree, TE, Sr.; Kerry Hicks, DT, Soph.; James Hill, TB, Sr.; Greg Jones, LB, Soph.; Vance Joseph, QB, Jr. (RS/shoulder); Jon Knutson, LB, Jr.; Greg Lindsey, SS, Sr.; Erik Mitchell, FL, Jr.; Sam Rogers, LB, Sr.; Rashaan Salaam, TB, Soph. Top newcomers: Nathan Campbell, TB, Fr. (RS); Ron Merkerson, LB, Fr.; Aaron Wade, OT, Fr.; Allen Wilbon, LB, Fr.

Schedule: Texas, Sept. 4; Baylor, Sept. 11; at Stanford, Sept. 18; Miami (Fla.), Sept. 25; Missouri, Oct. 9; at Oklahoma, Oct. 16; at Kansas State, Oct. 23; Nebraska, Oct. 30; at Oklahoma State, Nov. 6; Kansas, Nov. 13; at Iowa State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Buffaloes.

Site: Boulder, Colo.

ning attack in the equipment shed. Colorado plummeted from 19th to 100th in team rushing and won't become a national contender again until the running game returns. Sophomore Rashaan Salaam and redshirt freshman Nathan Campbell are getting very long



It's his spotlight: Ron Woolfork is Colorado's next great linebacker.

looks. But even if the run is restored, Colorado must replace five all-Big Eight defensive players. The defense had better gel in a hurry—Colorado plays three bowl teams in non-conference play.

Offensive strengths: Ten starters return, including a healthy Kordell Stewart at quarterback. Michael Westbrook and Charles Johnson were only the fourth pair of college teammates to have 1,000 receiving yards each in the same season. Christian Fauria led all Big Eight tight ends in receptions.

Offensive weaknesses: The line took much of the heat for the paltry running attack in '92. Of last year's two starting guards, Roger Ivey quit because of back problems and Craig Anderson is recovering from knee surgery. Freshmen are contenders at tackle.

Defensive strengths: The linebackers. Senior Ron Woolfork is Colorado's next great player at the position, and junior Ted Johnson is a rising star. Another junior, Jon Knutson, started three games last year.

Defensive weaknesses: Tackle Leonard Renfro's early defection to the NFL has left a major hole in the line. The other tackle, Brian Dyet, won't be platooning any longer, but nose tackle Jeff Brunner is coming off major knee surgery.

Special teams: The Buffaloes lost local schoolboy star Scott Bentley to Florida State, giving Mitch Berger a chance to redeem himself for his errant 23-yard field goal and two missed extra points in the Fiesta Bowl loss to Syracuse. Berger's strength, however, is punting, and he may be the best in the nation at it.

Outlook: When Bill McCartney announced before last season that the Buffaloes were going to throw more, he wasn't kidding. The only problem was, he left his vaunted run-

Key to success: Developing an effective running game that doesn't detract from an explosive passing attack.

Sure sign of trouble: If an already fragile offensive line sustains any more injuries, forcing youngsters to the forefront again.

Coach Bill McCartney says: "Our objective on offense is to develop a running game. As we look back on last year, we never made any improvement. We're determined to have balance in our attack."

3 OKLAHOMA

Coach: Gary Gibbs (29-14-2, 4 years).

1992 record: 5-4-2. Big Eight: 3-2-2/4th.

Key losses: Reggie Barnes, LB; Joey Mickey, TE; Paul Moriarty, OT; Kenyon Rasheed, FB; Brad Reddell, P; Darnell Walker, CB.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Jason Comer, T, 6-3/279, Soph.; J.R. Conrad, C, 6-5/316, Soph.; Cale Gundy, QB, 6-0/193, Sr.; Albert Hall, SE, 5-11/186, Jr.; Jeff Resler, G, 6-2/267, Jr.; Broderick Roberson, G, 6-2/294, Jr.; Corey Warren, FL, 5-11/196, Sr.; Earnest Williams, TB, 5-10/185, Jr. **Defense (8):** John Anderson, SS, 5-11/180, Jr.; Aubrey Beavers, LB, 6-2/232, Sr.; Mike Coats, LB, 6-0/230, Sr.; Joe Correia, E, 6-4/278, Sr.; Tremayne Green, LB, 6-0/231, Jr.; Cedric Jones, E, 6-4/249, Soph.; William Shankle, CB, 6-0/196, Sr.; Maylon Wesley, FS, 5-10/175, Soph. **Kickers (1):** Scott Blanton, K, 6-2/211, Jr.

Other key returns: Russell Allen, DE, Sr.; Rickey Brady, TE, Sr.; Larry Bush, FS, Soph.; David Campbell, DE, Jr.; Dwayne Chandler, FB, Soph.; Brent DeQuasie, LB, Soph.; Bryan Gorka, LB, Jr.; Darrius Johnson, CB, Soph.; P.J. Mills, SE, Soph.; Harry Stamps, OT, Soph.; Michael Thompson, TB, Soph.; Greg Wilkins, NG, Soph.

Top newcomers: James Allen, TB, Fr.; Arthur Atkins, DL, Soph. (Prop 48); Artis Burns, CB, Fr. (RS); Joe Carollo, OT, Jr. (JC); Tim Daughtry, P, Fr.; Chad Davis, QB, Fr. (RS); Wendell Davis, CB, Jr. (JC); Jeff Frazier, TB, Fr. (RS/shoulder); Rod Henderson, SS, Fr. (RS); Stirling Luckey, LB, Fr. (RS); Michael McDaniel, SE, Soph. (Prop 48); Tyrell Peters, LB, Fr.

Schedule: At Texas Christian, Sept. 4; Texas A&M, Sept. 11; Tulsa, Sept. 25; at Iowa State, Oct. 2; Texas (at Dallas), Oct. 9; Colorado, Oct. 16; Kansas, Oct. 23; at Kansas State, Oct. 30; at Missouri, Nov. 6; Oklahoma State, Nov. 13; at Nebraska, Nov. 26.

Nickname: Sooners.
Site: Norman, Okla.

Outlook: The option returns to Oklahoma after the Sooners plummeted to fifth in the league in total offense last year. Watson Brown is the new offensive coordinator, and it's his job to build up the running game without a significant drop in the passing game. He has senior quarterback Cale Gundy and the league's best stable of young running backs to work with.

Offensive strengths: Although they probably don't even shave yet, Oklahoma's running backs are potentially brilliant. Redshirt freshman Jeff Frazier, coming off a shoulder injury, is the big, elusive back the Sooners used to breed. True freshman James Allen was rated the nation's top running back last year.

Offensive weaknesses: Although four starters return on the line, that line gave up 21 sacks a year ago. Gundy missed two games last year after suffering a bruised sternum on one of those sacks.

Defensive strengths: Gibbs, who was the Sooners' defensive coordinator before taking over the top spot from Barry Switzer in 1989, is creating a defense built on speed. Eight starters are back for a unit that finished second in the league in 1992, but they



Breeding success: *Kansas' secondary has gone from a burn unit to a stud stable thanks to players like Kwamie Lassiter.*

must stay healthy.

Defensive weaknesses: The Sooners still are feeling the effects of a two-year probation. They have only 72 players on scholarship, and Gibbs expects to play as many as 10 incoming freshmen. Many of them will play defense, where five starters were lost to injury last year.

Special teams: Scott Blanton, who has hit his last 12 field-goal attempts, will retain that job and compete with prep All-America Tim Daughtry for the punting job.

Keys to success: Frazier lives up to his press clippings and Gundy does better in big games. Against Texas, Nebraska and Colorado the last two years, Gundy is 44 of 126 (.349 completion percentage) for 719 yards, four touchdowns and nine interceptions.

Sure sign of trouble: If Oklahoma loses to Texas again. Gibbs is 0-4 against the Longhorns, and his team has gone into the tank after every defeat.

Coach Gary Gibbs says: "We won't be as dependent on one person as we were last year. We were so dependent on Cale. We're emphasizing the tailback and fullback and trying to get everybody included in the offensive package like we were in the past."

4 KANSAS

Coach: Glen Mason (22-33-1, 5 years; 34-43-1 overall, 7 years).

1992 record: 8-4 (beat Brigham Young in Aloha Bowl). Big Eight: 4-3/3rd.

Key losses: Hassan Bailey, LB; Charley Bowen, SS; Gilbert Brown, DT; Monte Cozzens, FB; Maurice Douglas, TB; Matt Gay, WR; Chip Hilleary, QB; Keith Loneker, OT; Kyle Moore, DE; Dana Stubblefield, DT.

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Dwayne Chandler, TE, 6-3/240, Sr.; Hessley Hempstead, G, 6-1/287, Jr.; John Jones, G, 6-2/285, Jr.; Dan Schmidt, C, 6-2/275, Sr.; Ashaundai Smith, WR, 5-6/155, Soph. **Defense (7):** Don Davis, LB, 6-1/220, Jr.; Guy Howard, E, 6-3/230, Sr.; Kwamie Lassiter, FS, 6-1/175, Sr.; Chris Maumalanga, T, 6-3/290, Sr.;

Gerald McBurrows, CB, 5-11/185, Jr.; Larry Thiel, LB, 6-3/220, Sr.; Robert Vaughn, CB, 6-0/190, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Dan Eichloff, K/P, 6-0/215, Sr.

Other key returns: Mark Allison, OT, Soph.; Brian Christian, DE, Sr.; Harold Harris, LB, Jr.; Rodney Harris, WR, Jr.; Steve Harvey, LB, Jr.; Dick Holt, LB, Soph.; Rod Jones, OT, Soph.; L.T. Levine, TB, Soph.; Mike Steele, DT, Sr.; Fredrick Thomas, QB, Jr.; Ronnie Ward, LB, Soph.; George White, TB, Sr.; Sylvester Wright, DE, Jr.

Top newcomers: Darwin Anderson, FB, Soph. (RS/knee); Mike Arbanas, OT, Fr. (RS); Tony Blevins, DB, Fr.; Troy Chandler, OT, Jr. (JC); Bob Goltra, OG, Fr. (RS); Costello Good, FB, Jr. (JC); Rodney Hogan, QB, Jr. (JC); Jim Moore, TE, Fr. (RS); Mark Sanders, TB, Fr. (RS); Brian Schottenheimer, QB, Fr. (RS); Darrin Simmons, P/QB, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Florida State (Kickoff Classic at East Rutherford, N.J.), Aug. 28; Western Carolina, Sept. 4; at Michigan State, Sept. 11; Utah, Sept. 18; Colorado State, Oct. 2; at Kansas State, Oct. 9; Iowa State, Oct. 16; at Oklahoma, Oct. 23; at Oklahoma State, Oct. 30; Nebraska, Nov. 6; at Colorado, Nov. 13; Missouri, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Jayhawks.
Site: Lawrence, Kan.

Outlook: After Kansas' first bowl game in 11 years, it's clear that Lawrence is no longer just a basketball town. Coach Glen Mason must rebuild his entire backfield, but both interior lines are solid and the kicking game is the best the Big Eight has to offer. The Jayhawks aren't reloading, but they're not starting over, either.

Offensive strengths: Three starters are back on a line that allowed only 16 sacks a year ago.

Offensive weaknesses: After three years with Chip Hilleary, Mason must find another quarterback to run his offense. The candidates are erratic backup Fredrick Thomas, junior college transfer Rodney Hogan and redshirt freshman Brian Schottenheimer, the son of the Kansas City Chiefs' coach. Now, if he can just find some running backs, too.

Defensive strengths: The secondary has gone from a burn unit to a stud stable. Three starters, including all-league free safety Kwamie Lassiter, return from a group that allowed a league-low eight touchdown passes.

Defensive weaknesses: The Jayhawks led the Big Eight in rushing defense, but the loss of three starters makes a repeat performance unlikely. Chris Maumalanga started nine games before missing the last three contests with a knee injury. Kansas also needs linebackers Larry Thiel (broken leg) and Steve Harvey (ruptured Achilles) to fully recover from their injuries.

Special teams: The best in the Big Eight. Dan Eichloff, a two-time all-league placekicker, hit 16 of 20 field goals last season and was the second-leading scorer in the conference. George White is a good kickoff-return man.

Key to success: Finding some offensive weapons in a pack of newcomers.

Sure sign of trouble: If Mason winds up playing musical chairs at quarterback.

Coach Glen Mason says: "Compare the perception of Kansas football from one year to the next, and you can see it. Try comparing it with getting ready for the '93 season and getting ready for the '88 season, and you can taste it."

Continued

5 OKLAHOMA STATE

Coach: Pat Jones (56-45-2, 9 years).

1992 record: 4-6-1. Big Eight: 2-4-1/6th.

Key losses: David Brooks, DT; Cornell Cannon, SS; Carlos Erving, LB; Todd Fisher, CB; Terry Henley, CB; Elmer Williams, DT; Mike Woolridge, DE.

Starters returning: Offense (11): Mike Butler, T, 6-2/295, Sr.; Shannon Culver, SE, 5-10/150, Sr.; Rafael Denson, FL, 5-8/175, Jr.; Gary Porter, QB, 6-1/210, Soph.; Roger Franks, FB, 6-2/242, Sr.; Anthony Greenlee, G, 6-1/300, Sr.; Scott Hall, C, 6-2/290, Sr.; Derek Jones, TE, 6-4/240, Jr.; Matt Jose, T, 6-4/290, Sr.; Scott Waterbury, G, 6-5/250, Soph.; John White, TB, 5-11/220, Sr. **Defense (4):** Richie Ansley, LB, 6-2/240, Sr.; Keith Burns, LB, 6-2/235, Sr.; Jason Gildon, E, 6-4/230, Sr.; Scott Harmon, FS, 5-8/190, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Scott Tyner, P, 6-1/190, Sr.; Lawson Vaughn, K, 6-0/160, Soph.

Other key returnees: Jason Bufford, DT, Jr.; Mark Cheatwood, FL, Jr.; Lorenzo Green, DT, Jr.; Fred Thomas, SE, Soph.; Tharon Tircuit, SS, Soph.; Tyler Williams, DE, Jr.

Top newcomers: Jittu Criddle, CB, Fr. (RS/knee); Asaf Harris, FL, Jr. (transfer/Purdue); Linc Harden, LB, Jr. (JC); Eric Hobbs, LB, Jr. (JC); Jevon Langford, DE, Fr.; Alonzo Mayes, TE, Fr.; Delvin Myles, CB, Jr. (JC); Cleavon Williams, CB, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Southwest Missouri State, Sept. 11; at Tulsa, Sept. 18; at Arizona State, Sept. 25; Texas Christian, Oct. 2; Nebraska, Oct. 7; at Missouri, Oct. 16; at Iowa State, Oct. 23; Kansas, Oct. 30; Colorado, Nov. 6; at Oklahoma, Nov. 13; Kansas State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Cowboys.

Site: Stillwater, Okla.

Outlook: The Cowboys have finally resurfaced after three years drowning in probation. No other school improved by more than the four games Oklahoma State did last year, and the Cowboys welcome back every starter on offense. Coach Pat Jones has a knack for getting the most out of his personnel, and he finally has some personnel with which to work.

Offensive strengths: The Cowboys have the league's most experienced offense, but far from its best (Oklahoma State ranked No. 103 out of 107 Division I-A schools in total offense). Still, Gary Porter did throw for 1,280 yards and completed 51 percent of his passes as a freshman. Rafael Denson, a much ballyhooed tailback, played well after being moved to flanker at midseason.

Offensive weaknesses: The school that produced Barry Sanders, Thurman Thomas and Gerald Hudson has no honor students in its backfield. Only 10 teams in America rushed for fewer yards than Oklahoma State in 1992.

Defensive strengths: The Cowboys have three of the Big Eight's best defenders in end Jason Gildon, linebacker Keith Burns and free safety Scott Harmon. Gildon, a three-time all-league pick, had 10 sacks last year.

Defensive weaknesses: Harmon is the only returning starter in a secondary that is counting on Cleavon Williams and Delvin Myles, a pair of junior college imports, to start at cornerback right away.

Special teams: Scott Tyner averaged 41.8 yards per punt to finish 25th nationally. Lawson Vaughn connected on 8 of 15 field goals as a freshman. Harmon ranks second among Big Eight punt returnees.

Key to success: Porter reduces his 2-to-1 interception-to-touchdown ratio and gets the ball to his talented receivers.

Sure signs of trouble: If no one emerges at tailback and Porter, who was nailed with a driving-under-the-influence ticket after one game last season, has as many problems off the field as on.

Coach Pat Jones says: "With Porter, he could end up being a very good player at this level or could end up not being here."

6 MISSOURI

Coach: Bob Stull (12-31-1, 4 years; 43-59-1 overall, 9 years).

1992 record: 3-8. Big Eight: 2-5/T6th.

Key losses: Victor Bailey, WR; Maurice Benson, SS; Coby Crowl, OT; Stacy Elliott, DE; Kent Gardner, TE; Doug Hembrough, C; Jeff Jacke, K; Ronnell Kayhill, FB; Bob Petrus, OG; Mike Ringgenberg, LB; Gene Snitsky, OT.

Starters returning: Offense (4): Mike Bedosky, G, 6-5/288, Sr.; Joe Freeman, TB, 5-10/176, Jr.; Jeff Handy, QB, 6-3/210, Jr.; Kenny Holly, WR, 6-0/178, Sr. **Defense (8):** George Hunt, T, 6-3/288, Sr.; Rick Lyle, T, 6-6/281, Sr.; Jerome Madison, SS, 6-0/183, Jr.; Steve Martin, T, 6-5/291, Soph.; Travis McDonald, LB, 6-2/220, Jr.; Kevin McIntosh, CB, 6-0/175, Jr.; Jason Oliver, CB, 5-10/169, Sr.; Andre White, FS, 6-1/198, Jr. **Kickers (1):** Kyle Pooler, P, 6-0/186, Jr.

Other key returnees: Tim Alvarado, OT, Sr.; Earl Brooks, LB (will move to DE), Sr.; Pat Ivey, DE, Soph.; Mark Jackson, TB, Jr.; Mike Jadlot, WR, Sr.; Antwan Johnson, FB, Soph.; Phil Johnson, QB, Sr.; Darryl Major, LB, Jr.; A.J. Ofodile, TE, Jr.; Brian Sallee, WR/QB, Jr.; Michael Washington, FB, Jr. (RS/academics).

Top newcomers: Gary Bandy, DE, Soph. (JC); Raphael (Tiger) Boyd, TB, Fr. (RS); Darryl Chatman, LB, Fr. (RS); Rahsetnu Jenkins, WR, Fr.; Joe Love, SS, Fr. (RS/ankle); Derrick Miller, DB, Fr.; Lou Shepherd, WR, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Illinois, Sept. 11; at Texas A&M, Sept. 18; at West Virginia, Sept. 25; Southern Methodist, Oct. 2; at Colorado, Oct. 9; Oklahoma State, Oct. 16; at Nebraska, Oct. 23; Iowa State, Oct. 30; Oklahoma, Nov. 6; at Kansas State, Nov. 13; at Kansas, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Tigers.

Site: Columbia, Mo.



Mighty dandy: Missouri's Jeff Handy threw for a school-record 2,463 yards despite starting just six games.

Outlook: The good news is that Missouri won its last two games of 1992 and was blown out only once all season. The bad news is that Coach Bob Stull still hasn't come close to a .500 season after four years on the job. Stull, who received a two-year contract extension, has the sparkplugs of a good passing machine back. But the Tigers have to recover from the loss of defensive coordinator Don Lindsey, who helped them slash more than 100 yards off their per-game yield from the previous year. If they do, Missouri could take the next step.

Offensive strengths: Quarterback Jeff Handy threw for a school-record 2,463 yards (and completed 60 percent of his passes) despite starting just six games. The man he replaced, Phil Johnson, has thrown for 3,600 yards in his career. Senior Mike Bedosky is one of the best guards in the country.

Offensive weaknesses: The running game could be worse—but not by much. It finished next-to-last in Division I-A last season, and fullback Michael Washington, who sat out 1992 after leading the Tigers in rushing the year before, hurt his knee last spring.

Defensive strengths: The line is huge but not slow. Steve Martin, George Hunt and Rick Lyle (the Big Eight shot-put champion) all tip the scales at more than 280 pounds. Earl Brooks has been moved from linebacker to end to take better advantage of his 4.52 speed. Junior linebackers Darryl Major and Travis McDonald are solid.

Defensive weaknesses: It's a young unit, with only three seniors expected to start. Also, how will the players respond to their fourth coordinator in as many seasons?

Special teams: Kyle Pooler finished last in the league in punting (35.2-yard average) and may have to replace dependable place-kicker Jeff Jacke, too.

Key to success: The defense picks up where it left off.

Sure sign of trouble: If Handy falters early and Stull's quick hook fuels a quarterback controversy.

Coach Bob Stull says: "Two years ago against Kansas, we had everybody hurt. We played two freshmen, Darryl Major and Travis McDonald, at linebacker and (Tony Sands) had a national record (396 yards rushing) isolating on those two. Last year against Kansas, Travis McDonald was Big Eight Player of the Week."

7 IOWA STATE

Coach: Jim Walden (25-39-2, 6 years; 69-91-6 overall, 15 years).

1992 record: 4-7. Big Eight: 2-5/T6th.

Key losses: Scott Armbrust, C; Andrew Buggs, CB; Mark Doubrava, FS; Shane Dunlevy, DE; Malcolm Goodwin, LB; Matt Goodwin, CB; Todd McClish, OT; Dan Milner, LB; Sundiata Patterson, FB; Jon Schnoor, P; Marv Sells, QB; Chris Spencer, SE; Shawn Walker, CB; Dan Watkins, DE; Sherman Williams, HB.

Starters returning: Offense (6): Tony Booth, C, 6-3/282, Jr.; Dan Dostal, TE/DE, 6-5/246, Jr.; Mark Konopka, G, 6-3/288, Soph.; Doug Skartvedt, T, 6-3/290, Sr.; Chris Ulrich, FB, 5-10/208, Sr.; Bob Utter, QB, 5-11/180, Jr. **Defense (3):** Kevin Fulton, SS, 6-1/193, Jr.; Todd Miller, T, 6-4/252, Sr.; Troy Petersen, T, 6-4/271, Jr. **Kickers (1):** Ty Stewart, K, 5-11/175, Jr.

Other key returnees: James Brooks, SE, Jr.; Jeff Cole,

LB, Jr.; Artis Garris, HB, Soph.; Weylan Harding, CB, Jr.; Jim Knott, HB, Jr.; Kevin Lazard, CB, Sr.; James McMillion, HB, Sr.; Matt Nitchie, LB, Jr. (RS/knee); Donnie Smith, QB, Sr.; Jim Thompson, OG, Soph.; Hussein Warmack, FB, Sr. (RS/back & knee).

Top newcomers: J.D. Bewley, LB, Jr. (JC); Ryan Culver, C, Fr. (RS); Robby Duncan, QB, Fr.; Rodney Guggenheim, FB, Fr.; Bret (Scooter) Huber, FB, Fr.; Tim Sanders, LB, Fr. (RS); Geoff Turner, RB, Fr.

Schedule: Northern Illinois, Sept. 2; Iowa, Sept. 11; at Wisconsin, Sept. 18; at Rice, Sept. 25; Oklahoma, Oct. 2; at Kansas, Oct. 16; Oklahoma State, Oct. 23; at Missouri, Oct. 30; Kansas State, Nov. 6; at Nebraska, Nov. 13; Colorado, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Cyclones.

Site: Ames, Ia.

Outlook: Jim Walden has endured three straight losing seasons, and with a new athletic director and president on board in 1993, his collar has shrunk about two sizes. Walden needs to win now, but that won't be easy with some tough non-league opponents on the schedule. He says he has the best offensive speed in his 15 years of coaching, but keeping quarterback Bob Utter healthy and rebuilding the defense are just as important.

Offensive strengths: Although Walden brought back the triple option last year, he now has the speed to make it work. Utter, three receivers and four running backs all run the 40 under 4.6 seconds. Two freshmen have run 4.4 and 4.45.

Offensive weaknesses: If Utter suffers another concussion (he had two last season), his career may be over. Next in line are Donnie Smith, who threw eight interceptions and one touchdown pass last year, and freshman Robby Duncan.

Defensive strengths: Although the Cyclones lost eight starters, linebacker Jeff Cole played in every game. Tim Sanders, a redshirt freshman, is expected to replace second-team all-league pick Malcolm Goodwin at middle linebacker.

Defensive weaknesses: The secondary. The Cyclones allowed a league-high 17 touchdowns and intercepted a league-low nine passes, and things won't be much better in '93. Strong safety Kevin Fulton is the only returnee with much experience.

Special teams: Ty Stewart was Iowa State's top scorer a year ago and has kicked 22 of 30 field goals inside 50 yards in his career. Smith was a punter in junior college and probably will replace the departed Jon Schnoor. James McMillion is the Big Eight's best punt returner.

Keys to success: Utter stays healthy and the defense comes around in a hurry.

Sure sign of trouble: A loss at home to Northern Illinois in the season opener. Walden's job security already is shaky.

Coach Jim Walden says: "I don't sit in the corner and pout, saying, 'These SOB's are going to fire me.' I'm saying, 'I'm going to win a lot of games, and I'll stay.'"

8 KANSAS STATE

Coach: Bill Snyder (18-26, 3 years).

1992 record: 5-6. Big Eight: 2-5/6th.

Key losses: Brooks Barta, LB; Gerald Benton, WR; Eric Gallon, RB; Ekwensi Griffith, DT; Toby Lawrence, C; C.J. Masters, SS; Steve Moten, DT; Mike Orr, T; Chris Patterson, LB; Jeff Simoneau, NT; Sean Snyder, P; Brent Venables, LB.



Anchor of the line: Four starters return on the line for Kansas State, including second-team all-league center Quentin Neujahr.

Starters returning: Offense (9): Barrett Brooks, T, 6-5/285, Jr.; Andre Coleman, WR, 5-10/170, Sr.; Jim Hmielewski, T, 6-7/295, Jr.; Quentin Neujahr, C, 6-4/285, Sr.; Brian Rees, TE, 6-5/245, Jr.; Mitch Running, WR, 6-0/180, Soph.; Rod Schiller, FB/RB, 6-0/210, Jr.; Jason Smargiasso, QB, 6-2/220, Sr.; Eric Wolford, G, 6-2/280, Sr. **Defense (4):** John Butler, E, 6-2/230, Sr.; Jaime Mendez, FS, 6-0/200, Sr.; Thomas Randolph, CB, 5-10/180, Sr.; Kitt Rawlings, CB, 5-11/185, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Tate Wright, K, 5-10/175, Sr.

Other key returnees: Tom Byers, SS, Sr.; Warren Claassen, K, Sr.; Sean Dabney, DT, Sr. (RS); Mike Ekeler, SS, Jr.; Darrell Harbert, NT, Jr.; Kenny McEntyre, CB, Sr.; Jeff Smith, G, Soph.; J.J. Smith, RB, Jr.; Chris Sublette, FS, Jr.; Andrew Timmons, LB/DT, Soph.; Laird Veatch, LB, Jr. (RS).

Top newcomers: Bryan Campbell, OT, Jr. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton); Percell Gaskins, LB, Soph. (transfer/Northwest Oklahoma State); Scott Heun, G, Jr. (JC); Chad May, QB, Jr. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton).

Schedule: New Mexico State, Sept. 4; Western Kentucky, Sept. 11; at Minnesota, Sept. 18; UNLV, Sept. 25; Kansas, Oct. 9; at Nebraska, Oct. 16; Colorado, Oct. 23; Oklahoma, Oct. 30; at Iowa State, Nov. 6; Missouri, Nov. 13; at Oklahoma State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Wildcats.

Site: Manhattan, Kan.

Outlook: A soft schedule, including seven home games, should make for a respectable season at Kansas State. Still, there are too many unanswered questions—at quarterback, tailback and on defense—to keep this team out of the Big Eight cellar. There's little doubt that Coach Bill Snyder has turned Wildcats into Wildcats, but Kansas State's second bowl bid is at least another year away.

Offensive strengths: Four starters return on the line, including second-team all-league

center Quentin Neujahr. Tackle Barrett Brooks was a sophomore standout and Bryan Campbell, a transfer from Cal State Fullerton, started on Colorado's 1990 national championship team.

Offensive weaknesses: Take your pick. Only three schools in the nation gained fewer yards than Kansas State (244 per game). Quarterback Jason Smargiasso has size and speed (4.6 in the 40), but he finished ninth in passing efficiency in an eight-team league. Chad May, another Cal State Fullerton transfer, will challenge him.

Defensive strengths: Three starters return in a secondary that intercepted 21 passes, fourth-highest total in the nation. Jaime Mendez is an all-league free safety and Kansas State's all-time interceptions leader.

Defensive weaknesses: Outside the secondary, end John Butler is the only returning starter. Of the top eight defensive linemen, only two are seniors.

Special teams: Following the departure of Snyder's son, Sean, the punting job is up for grabs. Tate Wright, who didn't kick in the spring after spraining his ankle, will compete with Warren Claassen again for the place-kicking job.

Key to success: Smargiasso's mental ability matching his physical ability.

Sure sign of trouble: If a running back doesn't develop to keep the wolves away from the quarterback.

Coach Bill Snyder says: "I can't tell you that it's all fallen in place. Every step we take, we get closer. Are we there, ready to take the next giant step? I don't know. Things need to fall into place." ■

SCOUTING THE BIG EIGHT

Ascending: Oklahoma State. Pat Jones never had a losing season until his program was sacked by probation in 1989. Last season, the first in which his Cowboys were probation-free, he was named Big Eight Coach of the Year. The entire offense is back, and the defense is star-laden. And unlike Gary Gibbs down the road, Jones isn't the subject of acid-laced letters to the Daily Oklahoman every Sunday.

Descending: No team in the Big Eight is in free fall, but Kansas and Kansas State, two programs that have experienced long-awaited resurgences the last two years, are rebuilding in 1993. The Jayhawks must replace their entire backfield; the Wildcats most of their defense. Neither program, however, is headed for the athletically bankrupt level both were at in the late 1980s.

Nightmare schedule: Colorado. In non-league play, the Buffaloes meet three bowl teams: Baylor, Stanford and Miami (Fla.). Nebraska then awaits the Buffs on October 30.

Dream schedule: Kansas State, again. The Wildcats should retire the trophy in this league. They open at home with New Mexico State and I-AA Western Kentucky, go to Minnesota, then return home for UNLV. Kansas State plays seven games at home and only three league games on the road.

Best matchup of the year: Miami (Fla.) at Colorado, September 25. This game pits a perennial passing power against a fledgling one, Miami's superb secondary vs. Colorado's superb receiving corps. The Buffaloes have lost only once in their last 26 games at Folsom Field.

Worst matchup of the year: Iowa State at Nebraska, November 13. When Nebraska lost at Iowa State last season, it marked the first time the Cornhuskers had lost to a league opponent other than Colorado or Oklahoma since 1978. They have long memories, especially when this game could determine the Big Eight title.

Shocker of the year: Oklahoma State will beat Colorado on November 6. Two years ago, a 0-11-1 Cowboy team came within a fake field goal of beating the Buffaloes in Stillwater. This year's game comes one week after Colorado hosts Nebraska.

Bowl bound: Nebraska, Colorado and Oklahoma are virtual shoo-ins, Kansas and Oklahoma State are dark horses.

Biggest shoes to fill: Kansas quarterback Chip Hilleary's. A three-year starter, Hilleary lifted the Jayhawks from abysmal to a bowl. Good luck to his successor—he'll have no experienced running back to help him out.

Most underrated player: Thomas Randolph, CB, Kansas State. NFL scouts already love his school-record 4.28 speed. He rarely gets beat, picked off two passes last season, broke up 10 others and

blocked two kicks.

Impact newcomers: Gary Bandy, DE, Missouri, Soph. (JC); Tony Blevins, DB, Kansas, Fr.; Bryan Campbell, OT, Kansas State, Sr. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton); Jeff Frazier, TB, Oklahoma, Fr. (RS/shoulder); Rodney Hogan, QB, Kansas, Jr. (JC); Rahsetnu Jenkins, WR, Missouri, Fr.; Tim Sanders, LB, Iowa State, Fr. (RS).

Coach of the year: Tom Osborne, Nebraska. A victory at Colorado would make an unbeaten season for the 'Huskers very possible.

Coach on the hot seat: Jim Walden, Iowa State. A 25-39-2

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive line:
Nebraska

Best offensive backfield:
Nebraska

Best backup quarterback:
Phil Johnson, Missouri

Best wide receivers:
Colorado

Best clutch receiver:
Michael Westbrook, Colorado

Best defensive line:
Oklahoma

Best-hitting defensive lineman:
Chris Maumalanga, Kansas

Best linebackers:
Nebraska

Best-hitting linebacker:
Keith Burns, Oklahoma State

Best secondary:
Kansas State

Best-hitting defensive back:
Chris Hudson, Colorado

Best kicking game:
Kansas

Best kick-coverage units:
Iowa State

Best coaching staff:
Nebraska

Best coach:
Pat Jones, Oklahoma State

Best Heisman candidate:
Calvin Jones, RB, Nebraska

Best pro prospect:
Trev Alberts, LB, Nebraska

RETURNING LEADERS

Rushing: Calvin Jones, Nebraska, 110.0 yds./game (168 att., 1,210 yds., 14 TDs, 7.2 avg.).
Passing efficiency: Kordell Stewart, Colorado, 138.8 rating pts. (252 att., 151 comp., 2,109 yds., 12 TDs).

Total offense: Jeff Handy, Missouri, 239.1 yds./game (-72 yds. rushing, 2,463 yds. passing, 2,391 total yds.).

Receiving: Michael Westbrook, Colorado, 6.9 rec./game (76 rec., 1,060 yds., 8 TDs, 13.9 avg.).

Scoring: Calvin Jones, Nebraska, 8.2 pts./game (15 TDs, 0 PATs, 0 FGs, 90 pts.).

Punting: Mitch Berger, Colorado, 47.0 avg. (53 punts, 2,493 yds.).

Punt returns: James McMillion, Iowa State, 18.9 avg. (23 att., 435 yds., 3 TDs).

Kickoff returns: George White, Kansas, 22.0 avg. (15 att., 330 yds., 0 TDs).

Field goals: Scott Blanton, Oklahoma, 1.5 FG/game (16/18 FGs, 89%).

Interceptions: Jaime Mendez, Kansas State, .55 int./game (6 int., 121 yds., 0 TDs).



Dangerous Cyclone: Iowa State's James McMillion is the Big Eight's best punt returner.

record and one winning season in six years may not sit well with a new president and a new athletic director.

Best bets: A car with Nebraska license plates will get trashed on the Folsom Field parking lot October 30. . . . If Oklahoma loses to Texas for the fifth straight time, not only will a U-Haul truck be in front of Gary Gibbs' house, movers will be carrying out furniture by the time he gets home. . . . Nebraska's Calvin Jones will lead the league in rushing again. . . . Glen Mason's name will surface for a vacant job. . . . Nebraska and Colorado will lose their bowl games.

Odds and ends: Oklahoma had the best recruiting year of any Big Eight team. The class was ranked as high as No. 7 nationally. . . . All eight head coaches are back for the fifth straight year together, a league first. . . . Sixteen Big Eight players were taken in the NFL draft, including three (Colorado's Deon Figures and Leonard Renfro and Dana Stubblefield of Kansas) in the first round. Nebraska had six players drafted, Colorado five. . . . Kansas State offensive tackle Bryan Campbell, a letterman at Colorado in 1989-90, served a 30-day sentence for burglarizing the Buffs' team house two years ago. He played last season at Cal State Fullerton, which has since dropped football. . . . Skip Hall is Missouri's fourth defensive coordinator in four years. Hall's predecessor, Don Lindsey, is now at Southern Cal. . . . The attendance jump of 11,985 per game at Kansas last year was second best in the nation. Only San Diego State (12,579) had a bigger increase. . . . Colorado split end Charles Johnson was set to graduate this summer—after just three years. . . . Johnson (1,149) and Michael Westbrook (1,060) last season became only the fourth pair of teammates in college football history to have over 1,000 receiving yards in the same season. . . . Colorado (3,271) and Missouri (3,223) both surpassed the previous Big Eight record of 3,146 passing yards set by Kansas in 1983.

—JOHN HENDERSON

Penn State remedy may cure Big Ten's ailment

By **BRUCE HOOLEY**

Cleveland Plain Dealer

Penn State's addition to the Big Ten Conference has been trumpeted for three years, but always as a supplement to an already-solid football league.

Instead, the end of the Nittany Lions' 106 seasons as an independent comes just in time to lend a much-needed transfusion of prestige to a conference reeling from perhaps its worst season in history.

"There's no question the league went through a lean year last year," said Indiana Coach Bill Mallory, who is entering his 10th season with the Hoosiers. "There just weren't any real good teams except for Michigan. We have to face that and hope that things will be much better this year."

It would be hard for things to be worse, given the Big Ten's 13-17-1 record in non-conference games and its failure to put more than three teams in bowl games for the first time since 1980.

Not only were Michigan, Ohio State and Illinois the lone teams to play in the postseason (where the Wolverines won and the Buckeyes and Illini lost), they were the only Big Ten teams to finish above .500—the league's lowest total since 1976.

"When you go 13-17 in non-conference play, the majority of your teams don't have winning records," said Jim Delany, the Big Ten's commissioner. "That makes it difficult, especially when you have parity in your conference play."

Delany did his best to stop the bleeding, lining up bowl bids for Wisconsin, Iowa and

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. MICHIGAN
2. PENN STATE
3. OHIO STATE
4. WISCONSIN
5. MICHIGAN STATE
6. IOWA
7. ILLINOIS
8. INDIANA
9. PURDUE
10. NORTHWESTERN
11. MINNESOTA

Michigan State entering the season's final week.

So what happened? Wisconsin lost at Northwestern, Iowa lost at Minnesota and Michigan State lost at Illinois and the bowl scouts bid adieu.

Even the glow of Michigan's 38-31 victory over Washington in the Rose Bowl was tainted.

The Wolverines scrambled to tie Illinois and Ohio State the last two weeks of the regular season to finish 9-0-3, which left the Big Ten without a 10-win team.

"Despite what happened last year, this is still a strong conference," Penn State Coach Joe Paterno said. "I don't care who you are, everyone goes through cycles where you're down, but you recover from that and get better."

Maybe Paterno speaks hopefully, since his Lions ruined a 5-0 start by posting a 2-4 mark over their final six games. Penn State added to its misery by losing to Stanford in the Blockbuster Bowl.

1 MICHIGAN

Coach: Gary Moeller (28-5-3, 3 years; 34-29-6 overall, 6 years).

1992 record: 9-0-3 (beat Washington in Rose Bowl). Big Ten: 6-0-2/1st.

Key losses: Corwin Brown, FS; Joe Cocozzo, OG; Martin Davis, LB; Rob Doherty, OT; Steve Everitt, C; Elvis Grbac, QB; Chris Hutchinson, DT/LB; Burnie Legette, FB; Tony McGee, TE; Doug Skene, OG; Coleman Wallace, CB.

Starters returning: **Offense (4):** Derrick Alexander, WR, 6-2/190, Sr.; Trezelle Jenkins, T, 6-8/298, Soph.; Walter Smith, WR, 5-11/190, Jr.; Tyrone Wheatley, TB, 6-1/225, Jr. **Defense (8):** Alfie Burch, CB, 6-2/192, Sr.; Matt Dyson, LB, 6-5/252, Jr.; Tony Henderson, MG, 6-2/256, Jr.; Ty Law, CB, 6-0/184, Soph.; Steve Morrison, LB, 6-3/242,

Jr.; Shonte Peoples, SS, 6-1/227, Sr.; Buster Stanley, T, 6-2/273, Sr.; Marcus Walker, LB, 5-11/234, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Peter Elezovic, K, 5-11/197, Sr.; Chris Stapleton, P, 6-1/216, Sr.

Other key returns: Nefesh Aghakhan, DT, Sr.; Tony Blankenship, FS, Sr.; Marc Burkholder, TE, Sr.; Jean-Agnus Charles, CB, Soph.; Shawn Collins, LB, Soph.; Todd Collins, QB, Jr.; Ed Davis, TB, Soph.; Gannon Dudlar, DT, Sr.; Che Foster, FB, Soph.; Mercury Hayes, WR, Soph.; Jason Horn, MG, Soph.; Deon Johnson, CB, Jr.; Jesse Johnson, TB, Sr.; Felman Malveaux, WR, Jr.; Joe Marinaro, OG, Soph.; Greg McThomas, LB, Jr.; Marc Milla, C/OG, Sr.; Shawn Miller, OG, Jr.; Bobby Powers, LB, Jr.; Ricky Powers, TB, Sr.; Jay Riemersma, QB, Soph.; Mike Sullivan, OT, Soph.; Amani Toomer, WR, Soph.; Trent Zenkewicz, DT, Soph.

Top newcomers: Deollo Anderson, SS, Fr. (RS); J.J. Brown, LB, Fr.; William Carr, DT, Fr.; Jarrett Irons, LB, Fr. (RS); Damon Jones, TE, Fr. (RS); Steve King, FS, Fr. (RS); Rod Payne, C, Fr. (RS); Jon Ritchie, FB, Fr.

Schedule: Washington State, Sept. 4; Notre Dame, Sept. 11; Houston, Sept. 25; Iowa, Oct. 2; at Michigan State, Oct. 9; at Penn State, Oct. 16; Illinois, Oct. 23; at Wisconsin, Oct. 30; Purdue, Nov. 6; at Minnesota, Nov. 13; Ohio State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Wolverines.

Site: Ann Arbor, Mich.

Outlook: Despite heavy losses on the offensive line, the Wolverines should have no trouble claiming their sixth consecutive league championship and fifth outright title during that span. Michigan hasn't lost a Big Ten game since 1990 and hasn't lost a conference road game since 1987. While those streaks might end this season, the Wolverines' reign atop the standings will continue.

Offensive strengths: Pick a skill position and the Wolverines are loaded. Rose Bowl Most Valuable Player Tyrone Wheatley leads the list of the team's top four returning rushers from 1992. Wide receiver Derrick Alexander is the headliner among seven of the Wolverines' top eight pass catchers from 1992, and quarterback Todd Collins threw six touchdown passes in two starts last year. **Offensive weaknesses:** While four line starters have departed, the replacements are far from inexperienced due to the playing time they received in Michigan's many '92 blowouts. By midseason, the Wolverines should be dominating up front with their customary regularity.

Defensive strengths: Passing is a risk against the Wolverines because of their two-deep rotation on the line and the return of three starters in the secondary. Ty Law ranks among the best one-on-one coverage cornerbacks in the Big Ten.

Defensive weaknesses: Injuries forced Michigan to patch together an outside line-backing corps last year, and Matt Dyson's pulled groin in spring practice did nothing to help solidify the position.

Special teams: They might not be as flashy, but Wheatley and Alexander are every bit as dangerous on returns as 1991 Heisman Trophy winner Desmond Howard. Wheatley took one kickoff back for a touchdown and Alexander returned two punts for scores last season.

Key to success: A quick maturation by the offensive line is necessary if Michigan ex-



Marquee man: Derrick Alexander is the headliner among seven of the Wolverines' top eight pass catchers from 1992.

Continued

PRESEASON ALL-BIG TEN TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Tyrone
Wheatley,
TB, Michigan

DEFENSE



Dana
Howard,
LB, Illinois

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

Tim Schade, QB, Minnesota

DEFENSE:

Deolito Anderson, SS, Michigan

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	DERRICK ALEXANDER, Michigan	6-2/190	Sr.
WR	MILL COLEMAN, Michigan State	5-10/170	Jr.
TE	MICHAEL ROAN, Wisconsin	6-4/245	Jr.
T	TREZELLE JENKINS, Michigan	6-8/298	Soph.
T	KOREY STRINGER, Ohio State	6-6/316	Soph.
C	GREG ENGEL, Illinois	6-3/285	Sr.
G	BRETT LORRIS, Michigan State	6-4/309	Sr.
G	SHAWN MILLER, Michigan	6-4/273	Jr.
QB	TODD COLLINS, Michigan	6-5/240	Jr.
RB	JESSE JOHNSON, Michigan	5-9/209	Sr.
RB	TYRONE WHEATLEY, Michigan	6-1/225	Jr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	LOU BENFATTI, Penn State	6-3/270	Sr.
DL	JASON SIMMONS, Ohio State	6-5/240	Sr.
DL	DAN WILKINSON, Ohio State	6-5/310	Soph.
LB	MATT DYSON, Michigan	6-5/252	Jr.
LB	DANA HOWARD, Illinois	6-0/240	Jr.
LB	STEVE MORRISON, Michigan	6-3/242	Jr.
LB	SIMEON RICE, Illinois	6-5/242	Soph.
DB	DEREK BOCHNA, Penn State	5-11/188	Sr.
DB	SHONTE PEOPLES, Michigan	6-1/227	Sr.
DB	LEE RUBIN, Penn State	5-9/185	Sr.
DB	JIMMY YOUNG, Purdue	5-11/185	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	BILL STOYANOVICH, Michigan State	5-10/190	Sr.
P	JIM DIGULIO, Indiana	6-0/180	Jr.
AP	LEE GISSENDANER, Northwestern	5-9/179	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	LEE DeRAMUS, Wisconsin	6-2/185	Jr.
WR	LEE GISSENDANER, Northwestern	5-9/179	Sr.
TE	ROSS HALES, Indiana	6-7/265	Sr.
T	MATT O'DWYER, Northwestern	6-5/290	Jr.
T	JOE PANOS, Wisconsin	6-3/290	Sr.
C	CORY RAYMER, Wisconsin	6-4/290	Jr.
G	ELVIN CALDWELL, Purdue	6-4/267	Sr.
G	DAVE MONNOT, Ohio State	6-4/277	Sr.
QB	LEN WILLIAMS, Northwestern	6-0/215	Sr.
RB	DENNIS LUNDY, Northwestern	5-9/185	Jr.
RB	CRAIG THOMAS, Michigan State	6-0/205	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	CHARLES BEAUCHAMP, Indiana	6-2/225	Sr.
DL	LAMARK SHACKERFORD, Wisconsin	6-1/265	Sr.
DL	MIKE WELLS, Iowa	6-4/280	Sr.
LB	JAY DAVIS, Indiana	6-0/205	Sr.
LB	ROB FREDRICKSON, Michigan State	6-2/230	Sr.
LB	JOHN HOLECEK, Illinois	6-2/223	Jr.
LB	CRAIG POWELL, Ohio State	6-4/215	Soph.
DB	SHELLY HAMMONDS, Penn State	5-10/190	Sr.
DB	REGGIE HOLT, Wisconsin	5-11/195	Sr.
DB	TY LAW, Michigan	6-0/184	Soph.
DB	CHICO NELSON, Ohio State	6-1/197	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	CHRIS RICHARDSON, Illinois	6-4/255	Jr.
P	SAM VEIT, Wisconsin	5-9/170	Jr.

pects to defeat Notre Dame and contend for the national championship.

Sure sign of trouble: It's a long shot, but if Gary Moeller loses faith in Collins and bottles up the passing game like he did at Ohio State last year, the Wolverines will regress to the level of the rest of the league.

Coach Gary Moeller says: "It's a good year to be an offensive lineman here, because there are a lot of opportunities. I don't think we've ever been put in a position where we've had so many spots to fill with so many inexperienced players. Offensive linemen have a special temperament. They're fighters. We don't have anyone like that."

2 PENN STATE

Coach: Joe Paterno (247-67-3, 27 years).

1992 record: 7-5 (lost to Stanford in Blockbuster Bowl).

Key losses: Richie Anderson, TB (declared for NFL draft); Troy Drayton, TE; John Gerak, OG; Reggie Givens, LB; Mark Graham, CB; Greg Huntington, OT; O.J. McDuffie, WR; Rich McKenzie, LB; E.J. Sandusky, C; Brett Wright, LB.

Starters returning: Offense (5): Mike Malinoski, G, 6-2/260, Sr.; Brian O'Neal, FB, 6-1/227, Sr.; Derrick Pickett, T, 6-5/275, Sr.; John Sacca, QB, 6-2/200, Jr.; Tisen Thomas, WR, 5-8/160, Sr. Defense (7): Lou Benfatti, T, 6-3/270, Sr.; Derek Bochna, SS, 5-11/188, Sr.; Shelly Hammonds, CB, 5-10/190, Sr.; Tyoka Jackson, T, 6-2/255, Sr.; Lee Rubin, FS, 5-9/185, Sr.; Vin Stewart, NT, 6-3/275, Jr.; Phil Yeboah-Kodie, LB, 6-1/220, Jr. Kickers (2): Craig Fayak, K, 6-1/190, Sr.; V.J. Muscillo, P, 5-8/190, Sr.

Other key returnees: Mike Archie, TB, Soph.; Todd Atkins, DT, Jr.; Kyle Brady, TE, Jr.; Ki-Jana Carter, TB, Soph.; Eric Clair, NT, Soph.; Kerry Collins, QB, Jr.; Cliff Dingle, CB, Soph.; Bobby Engram, WR, Soph. (RS); Marlon Forbes, CB, Jr.; Brian Gelzheiser, LB, Jr.; Bucky Greeley, C, Jr.; Ryan Grube, TE, Sr.; Jeff Hartings, OG, Soph.; Terry Killens, LB,

Soph.; Brian King, FS, Soph.; Josh Kroell, FS, Soph.; Chip LaBarca, WR, Sr.; Jeff Perry, LB, Jr. (RS); Tony Pittman, CB, Jr.; Stephen Pitts, TB, Soph.; Eric Ravotti, LB, Sr. (RS); Wally Richardson, QB, Soph.; Marco Rivera, OT, Soph.; Willie Smith, LB, Jr.; David Thomas, NT, Soph.; Justin Williams, WR, Soph.; Jon Witman, LB, Soph.

Top newcomers: Chris Campbell, WR, Fr. (RS); Jason Collins, CB, Fr. (RS); Peter Marczyk, C, Fr. (RS); Brandon Noble, NT, Fr. (RS); Freddie Scott, WR, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Minnesota, Sept. 4; Southern California, Sept. 11; at Iowa, Sept. 18; Rutgers, Sept. 25; at Maryland, Oct. 2; Michigan, Oct. 16; at Ohio State, Oct. 30; Indiana, Nov. 6; Illinois, Nov. 13; at Northwestern, Nov. 20; at Michigan State, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Nittany Lions.

Site: University Park, Pa.

Outlook: Penn State saved some wisdom from its years as an independent and will apply that knowledge to its inaugural season in the Big Ten. The Nittany Lions have off weeks before playing both Ohio State and Michigan, so a run at the championship isn't out of the question.

Offensive strengths: Nothing glaring comes to mind, unless it is fullback Brian O'Neal. But few teams have focused their national championship hopes around that position.

Offensive weaknesses: Richie Anderson's early departure for the NFL thrusts the tailback job to one of three candidates from Penn State's ballyhooed 1991 recruiting class. A three-man battle also looms at quarterback, where Kerry Collins, John Sacca and Wally Richardson enter the fall with an equal shot at starting.

Defensive strengths: Teams that stop the run traditionally fare well in the Big Ten, and in tackles Lou Benfatti and Tyoka Jackson

the Nittany Lions have as good a pair as anyone in the conference.

Defensive weaknesses: Can it be that the well has run dry at Linebacker U.? Not exactly, but with leading tackler Phil Yeboah-Kodie the lone returning starter at the position, things are more than a bit unsettled at Penn State's traditional position of strength.

Special teams: Kicker Craig Fayak's recovery from back surgery to correct a fractured vertebra won't be complete until the fall. He needs just four points to become Penn State's all-time leading kick scorer. Tisen Thomas should adequately replace O.J. McDuffie on punt and kickoff returns.

Key to success: A clear No. 1 quarterback must emerge from among Collins, Sacca and Richardson so Penn State can construct a passing game to take pressure off its inexperienced line and young running backs.

Sure sign of trouble: If Paterno shuffles his quarterbacks week to week. The Nittany Lions lost five of six games in which they trailed or were tied at halftime last year, so it's crucial they find someone to believe in down the stretch.

Coach Joe Paterno says: "I don't believe we're that far away from being where I think we should be. But we have to realize that just because we're Penn State, that doesn't mean we're going to win."

3 OHIO STATE

Coach: John Cooper (35-21-3, 5 years; 117-61-5 overall, 16 years).

1992 record: 8-3-1 (lost to Georgia in Citrus Bowl). Big Ten: 5-2-1/2nd.

Key losses: Bryan Cook, CB; Derrick Foster, DE;

Roger Harper, SS (declared for NFL draft); Len Hartman, OG; Kirk Herbstreit, QB; Paul Long, C; Greg Smith, NG; Robert Smith, TB (declared for NFL draft); Brian Stablein, SE; Steve Tovar, LB.

Starters returning: Offense (6): Jeff Cothran, FB, 6-2/231, Sr.; Alan Kline, T, 6-6/275, Sr.; Dave Monnot, G, 6-4/277, Sr.; Chris Sanders, FL, 6-1/175, Jr.; Cedric Saunders, TE, 6-3/241, Sr.; Jason Winrow, T (will move to G), 6-6/325, Sr. **Defense (6):** Chico Nelson, SS, 6-1/197, Sr.; Craig Powell, LB, 6-4/215, Soph.; Jason Simmons, E, 6-5/240, Sr.; Tim Walton, CB, 5-11/170, Sr.; Dan Wilkinson, T, 6-5/310, Soph.; Mark Williams, LB, 6-4/227, Sr.

Kickers (1): Tim Williams, P/K, 5-9/180, Sr.

Other key returnees: Pete Beckman, DT, Jr.; Matt Bonhaus, NG, Jr.; Randall Brown, DE, Jr.; Butler By'not'e, TB, Sr.; Mike Dully, OT, Jr.; Joey Galoway, FL, Jr.; Eddie George, TB, Soph.; Raymont Harris, TB, Sr.; Bob Hoying, QB, Soph.; Alex Rodriguez, LB, Jr.; Rod Smith, OG/C, Sr.; Corey Stringer, OT, Soph.; Walter Taylor, FS, Jr.; Jack Thrush, C, Sr.

Top newcomers: Greg Bellisari, LB, Fr.; Matt Christopher, LB, Fr. (RS/leg); Dan Colson, DB, Soph. (Prop 48); Luke Fickell, NG, Fr. (RS/knee); Terry Glenn, FL, Fr. (RS); Jayson Gwinn, DE, Fr. (RS); Ty Howard, CB, Fr. (RS); Stanley Jackson, QB, Fr.; Travis McGuire, TB, Fr. (RS); Juan Porter, OG, Fr. (RS); Bret Powers, QB, Sr. (transfer/Arizona State); Shawn Springs, DB, Fr.; Eric Starks, SE, Fr. (RS); Buster Tillman, SE, Fr. (RS); Mike Vrabel, DL, Fr.; Lou Willard, TB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Rice, Sept. 4; Washington, Sept. 11; at Pittsburgh, Sept. 18; Northwestern, Oct. 2; at Illinois, Oct. 9; Michigan State, Oct. 16; at Purdue, Oct. 23; Penn State, Oct. 30; at Wisconsin, Nov. 6; Indiana, Nov. 13; at Michigan, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Buckeyes.

Site: Columbus, O.

Outlook: Early departures for the NFL by tailback Robert Smith and strong safety Roger Harper will probably keep the Buckeyes out of the Rose Bowl for the ninth straight season. Additionally, expecting

Ohio State to end its Rose Bowl dry spell while playing with its fourth different starting quarterback in as many seasons is probably too much to ask.

Offensive strengths: If experience means excellence, Ohio State should field a fearsome line. Three starters return, and backups Jack Thrush and Rod Smith (along with tackle Corey Stringer) saw enough action last year that the winner of their battle for the center's job should do nothing to diminish the line's effectiveness.

Offensive weaknesses: Sophomore Bob Hoying must learn on the job, just like the last two quarterbacks to precede him. Hoying has a big arm, but his touch and ability to read defenses are unknowns. Senior Bret Powers, a transfer from Arizona State, would probably be the starter if he had more than one season of eligibility remaining.

Defensive strengths: Two years ago, Dan Wilkinson was a 348-pound blob bouncing around the weight room as a redshirt. Now he's a 310-pound demon at tackle returning from a freshman season that saw him earn all-conference honors. Players don't come much bigger, stronger and faster than the guy Ohio State coaches call "Big Daddy."

Defensive weaknesses: Ohio State is suspect up the middle against the run with red-shirt freshmen Luke Fickell (noseguard) and Matt Christopher (linebacker). Harper would have lent support from strong safety, but he's gone.

Special teams: Senior Tim Williams will leave Ohio State with most of the school's career records, but that's mainly because he's always been a starter. But Williams

missed field goals that could have turned the Buckeyes' tie and one of their league losses into victories, although his miss against Michigan was a 56-yard attempt on which he was just wide right.

Key to success: Hoying must become a capable passer and junior flanker Joey Galoway has to recover from knee surgery to offer Ohio State the big-play threat it lost with Smith's departure.

Sure sign of trouble: If opponents control the ball on Ohio State's defense, forcing Hoying to make plays in the passing game to keep the Buckeyes in contention.

Coach John Cooper says: "I think we've got as good a chance as anybody. I think we're going to be a pretty physical team on both sides of the ball. If the ball bounces our way and we get some breaks, we should be in the thick of it."

4 WISCONSIN

Coach: Barry Alvarez (11-22, 3 years).

1992 record: 5-6. Big Ten: 3-5/T6th.

Key losses: Aaron Brown, FL; Chuck Belin, OG; Mike Bryan, OG; Gary Casper, LB; Korey Manley, CB; Aaron Norvell, LB; Dwight Reese, LB; Rich Thompson, K.

Starters returning: Offense (8): Darrell Bevell, QB, 6-2/180, Soph.; Lee DeRamus, SE, 6-2/185, Jr.; Mark Montgomery, FB, 6-1/210, Sr.; Brent Moss, TB, 5-9/205, Jr.; Joe Panos, T, 6-3/290, Sr.; Cory Raymer, C, 6-4/290, Jr.; Michael Roan, TE, 6-4/245, Jr.; Mike Verstegen, T, 6-6/300, Jr. **Defense (7):** Carlos Fowler, T, 6-3/275, Sr.; Reggie Holt, SS, 5-11/195, Sr.; Jeff Messinger, CB, 5-10/190, Jr.; Scott Nelson, FS, 6-1/200, Sr.; Lamark Shack-

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erford, NG, 6-1/265, Sr.; Mike Thompson, T, 6-4/270, Jr.; Chad Yocum, LB, 6-4/240, Jr. **Kickers** (1): Sam Veit, P, 5-9/170, Jr.

Other key returns: Todd Anthony, DT, Sr.; Terrell Fletcher, TB, Jr.; Lee Krueger, NG, Sr.; Nick Rakko, LB, Sr.; Joe Rudolph, OG, Jr.

Top newcomers: James Darby, OG, Fr. (RS); Kenny Gales, CB, Jr. (JC/RS); John Hall, K, Fr. (RS); Keith Jackson, WR, Jr. (JC); Royston Jones, LB, Soph. (JC); Carl McCullough, RB, Fr.; Syllas Pratt, LB, Jr. (JC); Jerry Wunsch, OT, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Nevada, Sept. 4; at Southern Methodist, Sept. 11; Iowa State, Sept. 18; at Indiana, Sept. 25; Northwestern, Oct. 9; at Purdue, Oct. 16; at Minnesota, Oct. 23; Michigan, Oct. 30; Ohio State, Nov. 6; at Illinois, Nov. 20; Michigan State (at Tokyo), Dec. 4.

Nickname: Badgers.
Site: Madison, Wis.

Outlook: A bowl bid is the only thing left to complete the Badgers' transformation under Barry Alvarez. A comfortable non-league schedule and the return of 16 starters should end a bowl drought that has existed since the 1984 season.

Offensive strengths: The Badgers' running attack continued to improve in '92, ranking fourth in the Big Ten. The return of three line starters and tailbacks Brent Moss and Terrell Fletcher could make Wisconsin's running game one of the Big Ten's best.

Offensive weaknesses: The days of winning consistently in the Big Ten by just running are over, so Wisconsin must improve a pass offense that ranked last in the league.

Defensive strengths: Returning starters Lamark Shackerford, Mike Thompson and Carlos Fowler will combine to give the Badgers a formidable line. As a trio, they still have plenty of scores to settle.

Defensive weaknesses: No team loses linebackers like Aaron Norvell and Gary Casper without experiencing a dropoff. They ranked third and fifth, respectively, among the conference's top tacklers, and the loss of outside linebacker Dwight Reese only compounds the problem.

Special teams: A couple of freshmen need to deliver, namely Carl McCullough on returns and John Hall on placements. Wisconsin boasted just one player among the Big Ten's top 10 in either punt or kickoff returns last season, and Rich Thompson's 22-of-32 accuracy on field goals will be sorely missed.

Key to success: Darrell Bevell must improve his pass-efficiency rating (next to last among the league's qualifying quarterbacks in 1992) so opponents can't concentrate solely on stopping the run.

Sure sign of trouble: If junior college recruits Syllas Pratt and Royston Jones fail to solidify Wisconsin's thin linebacking corps.

Coach Barry Alvarez says: "We're a team trying to climb the ladder and take a step up. All the guys who played for us last year have to improve."

5 MICHIGAN STATE

Coach: George Perles (62-50-4, 10 years).

1992 record: 5-6, Big Ten: 5-3/3rd.

Key losses: Tico Duckett, TB; Mike Edwards, DE; Ty Hallock, LB; Toby Heaton, OG; Mitch Lyons, TE; Bill Reese, DT.

Starters returning: **Offense** (7): Brice Abrams, FB, 6-1/247, Sr.; Mark Birchmeier, C, 6-3/283, Jr.; Mill Coleman, WR/QB, 5-10/170, Jr.; Brian DeMarco, T, 6-7/308, Jr.; Bob Denton, T/G, 6-5/300, Soph.; Shane Hannah, T, 6-5/327, Jr.; Jim Miller, QB, 6-

4/208, Sr. **Defense** (8): Myron Bell, CB, 6-0/198, Sr.; Stan Callender, CB, 6-1/193, Jr.; Matt Christensen, LB, 6-4/232, Jr.; Rob Fredrickson, LB, 6-3/230, Sr.; Juan Hammonds, E, 6-3/234, Sr.; Aaron Jackson, T, 6-4/285, Jr.; Damian Manson, FS, 6-1/202, Jr.; Steve Wasylyk, SS, 6-1/197, Sr. **Kickers** (2): Chris Salani, P, 6-1/210, Soph.; Bill Stoyanovich, K, 5-10/190, Sr.

Other key returns: Yakini Allen, DT, Soph.; Greg Anderson, LB, Soph.; Colin Cronin, OT, Jr.; John Dignan, LB, Sr.; Rich Glover, DE, Sr.; Duane Goulbourne, TB, Soph. (RS/knee); Terry Harvey, LB, Soph.; Steve Holman, TB, Soph.; Brett Lorus, OG, Sr.; Bob Organ, TE, Jr.; Napoleon Outlaw, WR, Soph.; Craig Thomas, TB, Sr.

Top newcomers: Luke Bencie, QB, Soph. (transfer/Florida); Nigea Carter, WR, Fr.; Brian Echols, S, Fr.; Reggie Garnett, LB, Fr.

Schedule: Kansas, Sept. 11; at Notre Dame, Sept. 18; Central Michigan, Sept. 25; Michigan, Oct. 9; at Ohio State, Oct. 16; Iowa, Oct. 23; at Indiana, Oct. 30; Northwestern, Nov. 6; at Purdue, Nov. 13; Penn State, Nov. 27; Wisconsin (at Tokyo), Dec. 4.

Nickname: Spartans.
Site: East Lansing, Mich.

Outlook: Michigan State's 5-3 mark in the Big Ten last year was its sixth third-place-or-better finish in the last seven years. But Penn State's entrance into the conference should push the Spartans lower in the standings this season, despite the return of 17 regulars.

Offensive strengths: Michigan State has a big-play threat at each of its three primary skill positions (quarterback Jim Miller, tailback Craig Thomas and receiver Mill Coleman). Their presence and continued maturation should help the Spartans produce more than the 21.6 points they averaged in 1992.

Offensive weaknesses: The Spartans



Sensational Spartan: Versatile Mill Coleman is just one of Michigan State's big-play threats.

haven't moved opponents off the ball with regularity the last two seasons, so the return of four starters on the line may not be a bonus. Guard Brett Lorus could help shore up the deficiency after returning from knee surgery that sidelined him for most of '92.

Defensive strengths: Outside linebackers Rob Fredrickson and Matt Christensen make running wide on the Spartans a risk, as does a veteran secondary headed by strong safety Steve Wasylyk. His 114 tackles in '92 set a school single-season record for a defensive back.

Defensive weaknesses: Michigan State's stunt 4-3 alignment feeds off the success of its middle linebacker. That position has almost annually produced the team leader in tackles. Ty Hallock's departure leaves the job wide open, perhaps to true freshman Reggie Garnett.

Special teams: Bill Stoyanovich, who hit 11 of 14 field goals in 1992, is a consistent kicker, and Coleman is a constant threat to score on a kick return.

Key to success: Miller and the offense must produce early in games. Last year, Michigan State was outscored by 78 points in the first half, forcing it to abandon its preferred run-first philosophy in too many futile second-half comeback attempts.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Spartans' pass rush remains passive. In '92, opposing quarterbacks went virtually unchecked en route to averaging 209.6 yards per game through the air.

Coach George Perles says: "We still have a lot of work to do, but overall, we've seen some of the things we wanted to see. We finally have some depth in critical areas."

6 IOWA

Coach: Hayden Fry (105-58-5, 14 years; 194-147-9 overall, 31 years).

1992 record: 5-7, Big Ten: 4-4/5th.

Key losses: Bret Bielema, NG; Doug Buch, FS; Alan Cross, TE; Scott Davis, OT; Mike Devlin, C; Jason Dumont, DT; Mike Ferroni, OG; Scott Fisher, P; Jim Hartlieb, QB; Danan Hughes, WR; Carlos James, CB; Marvin Lampkin, RB; Lew Montgomery, FB; Jeff Nelson, DT; Bob Rees, OT; Ted Velicer, OG.

Starters returning: **Offense** (2): Jeff Antila, SE, 6-0/183, Sr.; Paul Burmeister, QB, 6-4/210, Sr. **Defense** (8): Larry Blue, E, 6-2/235, Sr.; Maurea Crain, NG, 6-3/255, Sr.; Mike Dailey, LB, 6-1/230, Sr.; John Hartlieb, E, 6-2/225, Jr.; Matt Hilliard, LB, 6-2/232, Sr.; Jason Olejniczak, SS, 6-0/195, Sr.; Scott Plate, CB, 5-11/195, Sr.; Mike Wells, T, 6-4/280, Sr. **Kickers** (2): Andy Kreider, K, 5-6/150, Sr.; Todd Romano, K/P, 6-2/185, Soph.

Other key returns: Tyrone Boudreaux, LB, Jr.; Bobby Diaco, LB, Soph.; Matt Eyde, QB, Sr.; Fritz Fequiere, OL, Jr.; Harold Jasper, SE, Jr.; Cliff King, FB, Sr.; John Kline, OG, Sr.; Bill Lange, OT, Sr.; Hal Mady, OT, Jr.; Matt Purdy, OG, Soph.; Matt Quest, OT, Sr.; Ryan Terry, RB, Sr.; Casey Wiegmann, C, Soph.

Top newcomers: Tavian Banks, RB, Fr.; Toney Bates, DE, Jr. (JC); Hausia Fuhala, DL, Jr. (JC); Jason Henlon, CB, Jr. (JC); Scott Hosler, DL, Jr. (JC); Brian McCullough, OL, Jr. (JC); Marcus Montgomery, DB, Jr. (JC); John Peaua, LB, Jr. (JC); Derek Price, TE, Jr. (JC); Sedrick Shaw, RB, Fr. (RS); Reggie Williams, FB, Jr. (JC); Lawan Young, DL, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Tulsa, Sept. 4; at Iowa State, Sept. 11; Penn State, Sept. 18; at Michigan, Oct. 2; at Indiana, Oct. 9; Illinois, Oct. 16; at Michigan State, Oct. 23; Purdue, Oct. 30; Northern Illinois, Nov. 6; at Northwestern, Nov. 13; Minnesota, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Hawkeyes.
Site: Iowa City, Ia.

Outlook: Iowa never recovered from the killer non-conference schedule it played last season. This year, there is no Miami (Fla.), no North Carolina State and no Colorado, only Tulsa and Iowa State. The Hawkeyes have even managed to sneak Northern Illinois on their schedule in November. That means Iowa could return to a bowl for the 11th time in 13 seasons.

Offensive strengths: Ryan Terry's 5.7 average per carry in '92 indicates he is ready to take over as the Hawkeyes' main ballcarrier. He'd better be, because redshirt freshman Sedrick Shaw and true freshman Tavian Banks pose a double-barreled burst of speed for Iowa to fall back on.

Offensive weaknesses: All five starters from the line have departed, although that unit's porous blocking in 1992 may make the exit more of a blessing than a curse.

Defensive strengths: The return of All-Big Ten tackle Mike Wells and noseguard Maurea Crain should help the Hawkeyes trim the 170.6 rushing yards per game they allowed last season.

Defensive weaknesses: Unless junior college transfer Jason Henlon develops quickly, Iowa's secondary will be vulnerable at the spot vacated by all-conference cornerback Carlos James.

Special teams: Blocked punts and missed field goals have given the Hawkeyes fits the last three seasons. Todd Romano was the kicker and punter when last season ended, but he did neither job well enough to prevent Iowa from auditioning seven kickers in the spring.

Key to success: The development of quarterback Paul Burmeister. He started the last three games of '92, guiding Iowa to a 2-1 record. That's not overly impressive, considering the victories came against Indiana and Northwestern and the loss was to Minnesota, which kept Iowa out of a bowl. If Burmeister isn't steady, the Hawkeyes have no chance to rebound.

Sure sign of trouble: If Iowa's inexperienced offensive line fails to trigger a rushing threat, putting Burmeister on the run and forcing the Hawkeyes to live by the pass.

Coach Hayden Fry says: "The last time we didn't go to a bowl game (1989 season), we bounced back the following year and went to the Rose Bowl. That might be asking too much of this group, but we are optimistic we can get back on the winning track."

7 ILLINOIS

Coach: Lou Tepper (6-6-1, 2 years).
1992 record: 6-5-1 (lost to Hawaii in Holiday Bowl). Big Ten: 4-3-1/4th.

Key losses: Darren Boyer, FB; Steve Feagin, TB; Erik Foggey, DT; Brad Hopkins, OT; Jim Pesek, OG; Jason Verduzco, QB; John Wright, WR.

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Randy Bierman, T, 6-5/304, Sr.; Greg Engel, C, 6-3/285, Sr.; Jon Kerr, G, 6-4/280, Jr.; Jim Klein, SE, 5-10/157, Jr.; David Olson, TE, 6-4/246, Sr. **Defense (10):** Jeff Arneson, FS, 6-1/210, Sr.; Mike Cole, NT, 6-3/236, Sr.; Chad Copher, T, 6-7/267, Jr.; Robert Crumpton, CB, 6-1/194, Jr.; Kevin Hardy, LB, 6-4/230, Soph.; John Holecsek, LB, 6-2/223, Jr.; Dana Howard, LB, 6-0/240, Jr.; Filmel Johnson, CB, 5-9/184, Sr.; Todd Leach, LB, 6-2/245, Sr.; Tyrone Washington, SS, 5-11/186, Soph. **Kickers (2):** Chris Richardson, K, 6-4/255, Jr.; Forry Wells, P, 6-4/206, Sr.

Other key returnees: Derek Allen, OG, Jr.; Ken Dilger,



Paving the way: Although he's a decent pass catcher, Indiana tight end Ross Hales is among the best blockers at his position in the league.

TE, Jr.; John Horn, OT, Soph.; Kevin Jackson, TB, Jr.; Johnny Johnson, QB, Soph.; J.J. O'Laughlin, QB, Jr.; Simeon Rice, LB, Soph.; Melvin Roberts, LB, Soph.; Derrick Rucker, SS, Sr.; Marvell Scott, FB, Soph.; John Sidari, LB, Sr.; Aaron Shelby, LB, Sr.; Jasper Strong, WR, Jr.; Mike Suarez, OT, Jr.; Scott Turner, WR, Jr.

Top newcomers: Ty Douthard, FB, Fr. (RS); Jason Dulick, WR, Fr. (RS); Jeff Hecklinski, QB, Fr.; Paul Marshall, NT, Fr. (RS); William (Mo) Morris, LB, Fr. (RS); Marquis Mosely, WR, Fr.; Dennis Stallings, LB, Soph. (Prop 48); Scott Weaver, QB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Missouri, Sept. 11; Arizona, Sept. 18; Oregon, Sept. 25; at Purdue, Oct. 2; Ohio State, Oct. 9; at Iowa, Oct. 16; at Michigan, Oct. 23; Northwestern, Oct. 30; Minnesota, Nov. 6; at Penn State, Nov. 13; Wisconsin, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Fighting Illini.

Site: Champaign, Ill.

Outlook: Lou Tepper continued the success begot by John Mackovic by guiding the Illini to a fourth-place finish en route to earning a bid to the Holiday Bowl. But unless Illinois finds a quarterback to replace Jason Verduzco, it will stay home for the holidays for the first time since the 1987 season.

Offensive strengths: Replacing Tom Beck with Greg Landry as offensive coordinator is the best thing Tepper has done since taking over as head coach. Beck took half a season to figure out that Verduzco was his meal ticket, something everyone else in the Big Ten already knew.

Offensive weaknesses: Illinois' resurgence under former coaches Mike White and Mackovic was built around the passing game. But with Verduzco and wide receiver John Wright gone, that element of the offense appears woefully weak by past Illini standards.

Defensive strengths: Inside linebacker Dana Howard can dominate a game, but he rarely gets the chance because his partner inside, John Holecsek, and outside linebackers Simeon Rice and Kevin Hardy make a habit of muscling in on the fun.

Defensive weaknesses: The line wasn't settled coming out of spring practice, primarily due to some position changes and hold-

overs recovering from injuries. The problems may appear more glaring than they are, simply because Illinois has the top linebacking unit in the country and four secondary starters returning.

Special teams: Tepper has, in all seriousness, termed the punt the most crucial play in football. If that's true, the Illini are in good shape with Forry Wells, whose 40.5-yard average in league play ranked second in the Big Ten last year. Kicker Chris Richardson, a two-year starter, should have the experience to rebound from a disappointing sophomore season.

Key to success: Center Greg Engel, a two-year starter, two other returning line starters and a healthy complement of tight ends must provide enough protection to baby Illinois' new quarterback through the pains of inexperience.

Sure sign of trouble: Illinois has won in the past because of its quarterbacks, but if the three-man battle between Johnny Johnson, J.J. O'Laughlin and Scott Weaver produces no heir to that tradition, the Illini will struggle.

Coach Lou Tepper says: "I am really excited to see how our young skilled people on offense project themselves. We'll also see how our defense is with a year of maturity, if they can rise to the challenge to give us some breathing room so our offense can make strides during the course of the year."

8 INDIANA

Coach: Bill Mallory (49-52-3, 9 years; 148-104-4 overall, 23 years).

1992 record: 5-6. Big Ten: 3-5/T6th.

Key losses: Scott Bonnell, K; Trent Green, QB; Jim Hannon, OG; Larry McDaniel, DT; Scott McGowan, WR; Mike Middleton, CB; John Miller, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Josh DeWitt, C, 6-3/270, Jr.; Ross Hales, TE, 6-7/265, Sr.; Tobi Kerns, FB, 6-0/230, Jr.; Brett Law, TB, 5-10/195, Jr.; Thomas Lewis, WR, 6-2/190, Sr.; Tom McKinnon, T, 6-6/300, Jr.; Chris Smith, T, 6-4/280, Jr.; Todd Smith, G, 6-3/285, Sr. **Defense (8):** Jay Davis, LB, 6-0/205, Sr.; Chris Dyer, SS, 6-2/200, Sr.; Hurvin

Continued

McCormack, T, 6-4/265, Sr.; Lamar Mills, E, 6-5/270, Sr.; Mose Richardson, CB, 6-2/180, Sr.; Al Thurman, LB, 6-1/230, Jr.; Damon Watts, FS, 5-10/175, Sr.; Bernard Whittington, E, 6-6/245, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Jim DiGiulio, P, 6-0/180, Jr.

Other key returns: Eddie Baety, WR, Jr.; Michael Batts, TB, Soph.; Charles Beauchamp, DE, Sr.; Lance Brown, SS, Jr.; Rod Carey, C, Sr.; Jermaine Chaney, TB, Jr.; Andrew Greene, OG, Jr.; Arnold Mickens, LB (will move to FB), Soph.; Jason Orton, CB, Sr.; John Paci, QB, Jr.; Trevor Wilmot, LB, Jr.

Top newcomers: Ghaton Ross, OG, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Toledo, Sept. 4; Northern Illinois, Sept. 11; Kentucky, Sept. 18; Wisconsin, Sept. 25; at Minnesota, Oct. 2; Iowa, Oct. 9; at Northwestern, Oct. 23; Michigan State, Oct. 30; at Penn State, Nov. 6; at Ohio State, Nov. 13; Purdue, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Hoosiers.

Site: Bloomington, Ind.

Outlook: The Hoosiers have made a habit of starting fast and fading just as quickly, as evidenced by last season's 5-3 beginning and 0-3 finish. This year should be no different, since Indiana gets five of its first six games at home and concludes with road games at Penn State and Ohio State and a home finale with Purdue, which beat the Hoosiers last year.

Offensive strengths: Injuries forced the Hoosiers to employ a patchwork line throughout the last half of 1992, but the result is an experienced group that returns this season. Nine linemen who started at least one game each last year return, and tight end Ross Hales is among the best blockers at his position in the league.

Offensive weaknesses: Indiana discovered a flaw in the strength-in-numbers theory last year, as its quartet of tailbacks fell woefully short of matching the success of former standouts Anthony Thompson and Vaughn Dunbar. Brett Law, Jermaine Chaney, Emmett Pride and Michael Batts combined for just 1,158 yards, barely the single-season output of their predecessors from 1986-91.

Defensive strengths: Charles Beauchamp's recovery from knee surgery gives Indiana an All-America pass-rushing talent at one end spot. The other end, Lamar Mills, could lead the league in tackles for losses.

Defensive weaknesses: Indiana expected its secondary to be the strength of last year's defense, but instead it was a major disappointment. Three of four starters return, so only time will tell if experience has sharpened their abilities.

Special teams: The departure of kicker Scott Bonnell removes the only consistent feature of the Indiana offense. Punter Jim DiGiulio led the league with a 44.3-yard average, but that figure doesn't reflect the three blocks, numerous bad snaps and shaky protection he suffered from throughout the season.

Key to success: The Hoosiers must establish a ground game. Indiana has been able to eke out a bowl bid in years past when its running game has excelled.

Sure sign of trouble: Losing twice in the first six games would be devastating, since Indiana plays only one road game during that stretch and is 28-11-1 at home over the last seven seasons.

Coach Bill Mallory says: "We need to improve, because we really came up short last

year. There were a lot of games where we just didn't do what we needed to do. I expect our team to have a better maturity in that area this year."

9 PURDUE

Coach: Jim Colletto (8-14, 2 years; 25-52-1 overall, 7 years).

1992 record: 4-7. Big Ten: 3-5/T6th.

Key losses: Tank Adams, CB; Eric Beatty, LB; David Bratton, OG; Ernest Calloway, FL; Don Delvy, LB; Eric Hunter, QB; Kevin Janiak, OT; Nick Mamula, C; Joe O'Leary, K; Jeff Zgonina, DT.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Mike Alstott, FB, 6-1/210, Soph.; Elvin Caldwell, T (will move to G), 6-4/267, Sr.; Arlee Connors, TB, 6-0/210, Sr.; Scott Green, TE, 6-3/237, Jr.; Jeff Hill, TB (will move to WR), 6-0/187, Sr.; Jermaine Ross, SE, 6-1/191, Sr.; Chris Sedoris, G, 6-3/258, Soph.; Tony Simmons, TE, 6-2/230, Jr. **Defense (8):** Romond Batten, LB, 5-11/225, Jr.; Chad Buckland, SS (will move to LB), 5-10/186, Jr.; James Cole, T, 6-2/246, Jr.; Bart Conley, LB, 6-4/210, Soph.; Ike Dozier, SS (will move to LB), 6-2/223, Jr.; Eric Gray, T, 6-4/247, Jr.; Pat Johnson, FS, 6-1/197, Sr.; Jimmy Young, CB, 5-11/185, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Rob Deignan, P, 6-4/200, Soph.; Mike Ulinski, P, 6-0/175, Sr.

Other key returns: Courtland Byrd, DB (will move to LB), Soph.; Bill Clinche, C, Sr.; Ryan Grigson, OT, Jr.; Aaron Hall, LB, Soph.; Alfie Hill, OT, Soph.; Ben Metzger, DL, Soph.; Matt Pike, QB, Jr.; Corey Rogers, TB, Soph. (RS/academics); Vito Speciale, K, Soph. (RS/knee); Jarrod Walker, DL, Soph.; Jayme Washel, DT, Soph.; Ryan Wilson, LB, Jr. (RS/arm).

Top newcomers: Mike Cardona, OT, Jr. (JC); Isiah Dozier, SS, Fr.; Darnell Howard, DL, Fr.; Chris Koeppen, LB, Fr. (RS); Kevin Nolan, DB, Jr. (JC); Kirk Olivadotti, WR, Fr. (RS/shoulder); Mark Seccrest, DL, Jr. (JC); Derrick Wallace, CB, Fr.; Emmett Zitelli, C, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At North Carolina State, Sept. 4; Western Michigan, Sept. 11; Notre Dame, Sept. 25; Illinois, Oct. 2; at Minnesota, Oct. 9; Wisconsin, Oct. 16; Ohio State, Oct. 23; at Iowa, Oct. 30; at Michigan, Nov. 6; Michigan State, Nov. 13; at Indiana, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Boilermakers.

Site: West Lafayette, Ind.



Top billing: Jimmy Young is the marquee name in a strong Purdue secondary.

Outlook: The Boilermakers probably still can't explain how they defeated California and Indiana, yet lost to Toledo and Northwestern. Youth was the reason, and since Purdue is still young, inconsistency will remain a problem.

Offensive strengths: Purdue was the nation's worst rushing team before Coach Jim Colletto arrived for the '91 season, but now the Boilermakers are so deep in the backfield that tailback Jeff Hill has been moved to wide receiver. Arlee Connors and Corey Rogers provide a capable tailback duo, and sophomore fullback Mike Alstott is a monster blocker.

Offensive weaknesses: Colletto's expertise as an offensive line coach should be tested with a unit lacking experience beyond veteran guards Chris Sedoris and Elvin Caldwell.

Defensive strengths: Two-time all-conference cornerback Jimmy Young, who must recover from a spring knee injury, is the marquee name in a strong Purdue secondary. Junior college transfer Kevin Nolan should solidify a unit that ranks with the best in the conference.

Defensive weaknesses: The departure of Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year Jeff Zgonina removes the one constant from the Boilermakers' front wall. Replacing Eric Beatty, the Big Ten's leading tackler, will be difficult.

Special teams: Kicker Vito Speciale may be ready to deliver on the promise of an outstanding high school career after battling injuries the last two seasons. Purdue's punting needs to improve (ninth in Big Ten). Jermaine Ross is the league's leading returning kickoff return man.

Key to success: Now that the job is his alone, quarterback Matt Pike must shake off the inconsistency that has plagued him the last two years when he alternated with Eric Hunter.

Sure sign of trouble: If Purdue's offensive line fails to progress, which would ruin the improvement the Boilermakers have made in their running game and put additional pressure on Pike.

Coach Jim Colletto says: "We're getting better, but we've still got an awful lot of young guys. How we will do will depend on whether they can overcome what they lack in experience."

10 NORTHWESTERN

Coach: Gary Barnett (3-8, 1 year).

1992 record: 3-8. Big Ten: 3-5/T6th.

Key losses: Frank Boudreaux, DT; Tobin Buckner, OG; Tom Christian, LB; Jason Cunningham, LB; Greg Gill, CB.

Starters returning: **Offense (10):** Todd Baczek, T, 6-3/285, Sr.; Chris Gamble, WR, 6-0/181, Sr.; Lee Gissendaner, WR, 5-9/179, Sr.; Rob Johnson, C, 6-4/272, Soph.; Dennis Lundy, RB, 5-9/185, Jr.; Luther Morris, TE, 6-4/227, Jr.; Matt O'Dwyer, T, 6-5/290, Jr.; Ryan Padgett, G, 6-3/275, Soph.; Len Williams, QB, 6-0/215, Sr.; Patrick Wright, WR, 5-4/159, Sr. **Defense (7):** William Bennett, FS, 6-1/194, Soph.; John Hellebusch, T, 6-3/277, Sr.; Steve Ostrowski, LB, 6-0/224, Sr.; Anthony Purkett, CB, 5-8/170, Sr.; Steve Shine, LB, 6-6/232, Sr.; Corey Singleton, SS, 6-1/208, Jr.; Nick Walker, NG, 5-10/262, Soph. **Kickers (1):** Brian Leahy, K, 5-8/169, Sr.

Other key returns: Dwight Brown, DB, Jr.; Paul Burton, QB/P, Soph.; Phil Burton, DB, Sr.; Larry

Curry, DT, Soph.; Shane Graham, TE, Soph.; Billy Greenwald, FB, Sr.; Chris Martin, CB, Soph.; John Newton, SS, Sr.; Rodney Ray, CB, Soph. (RS/shoulder); Chuck Robinson, RB, Soph.; Mark Ruddy, LB, Jr. (RS/elbow); Mike Senters, WR, Sr. (RS/ankle); Danny Sutter, LB, Soph.; Mike Warren, LB, Jr.; Hugh Williams, LB, Jr.
Top newcomers: Ryan Daniels, OL, Fr.; Robbie Glanton, RB/DB, Fr.; Chad Pugh, OG, Fr. (RS); Joe Reiff, DT, Fr. (RS); Ray Robey, DL, Fr.; Eric Scott, WR, Fr.; Derek Swafford, RB, Fr.
Schedule: At Notre Dame, Sept. 4; Boston College, Sept. 18; Wake Forest, Sept. 25; at Ohio State, Oct. 2; at Wisconsin, Oct. 9; Minnesota, Oct. 16; Indiana, Oct. 23; at Illinois, Oct. 30; at Michigan State, Nov. 6; Iowa, Nov. 13; Penn State, Nov. 20.
Nickname: Wildcats.
Site: Evanston, Ill.

Outlook: Gary Barnett and all but one member of his coaching staff were new to Northwestern last year, so it figures the Wildcats should improve due to increased familiarity alone. As Illinois, Purdue and Wisconsin learned in 1992, playing Northwestern is no longer an automatic win.

Offensive strengths: Quarterback Len Williams is perfect for what the Wildcats hope to accomplish. He's mobile, can make something from nothing and possesses an adequate arm. Lee Gissendaner is a dangerous receiver.

Offensive weaknesses: The Wildcats lost yardage on 16 percent of their plays in 1992, so it's obvious their blocking needs improvement. Four starters along the line return, but unless they're markedly better, Williams may continue to feel pressure in the pocket.

Defensive strengths: Sophomore free safety William Bennett had 100 tackles last year and is the leader of a veteran secondary that should reduce the 200.5 passing yards per game it allowed in 1992.

Defensive weaknesses: The Wildcats are so thin along the line that Barnett admits he is counting on true freshmen to lend a hand.

Special teams: Gissendaner led the nation in punt returns last year, so opponents must design a way to avoid him or pay the price. Elsewhere, the Wildcats are suspect. Kicker Brian Leahy was just 6-for-11 on field goals and punter Paul Burton faces his first year in that role.

Key to success: Improving Williams' pass protection would help Northwestern reduce the 370 yards he lost on sacks in '92 and boost the success of running back Dennis Lundy.

Sure sign of trouble: If injuries deplete an already-suspect defensive line, allowing opponents to control the ball and keep the Wildcats' potentially potent offense on the sideline.

Coach Gary Barnett says: "We are head-and-shoulders ahead of where we were last year. Maybe it's familiarity as much as anything. We now have a working knowledge of what the kids can do, as opposed to last year when we could only look at them and wonder."

11 MINNESOTA

Coach: Jim Wacker (2-9, 1 year; 146-100-3 overall, 22 years).

1992 record: 2-9. Big Ten: 2-6/10th.

Key losses: Keith Ballard, OT; Andre Davis, LB; Derek Fisher, CB; Marquel Fleetwood, QB; Ted



It begins with this end: Second-team all-conference end Dennis Cappella headlines the return of Minnesota's entire starting defensive line.

Harrison, OG; Dean Kaufman, P; John Lewis, WR; Prince Pearson, OG; Aaron Piepkorn, K; Ken Seabee, SS.

Starters returning: Offense (7): Steve Cambrice, TE, 6-5/219, Sr.; Antonio Carter, RB, 6-1/216, Sr.; Omar Douglas, WR, 5-10/170, Sr.; Chris Fowlkes, T, 6-4/315, Soph.; Neil Fredenburg, C, 6-5/290, Sr.; Aaron Osterman, SE, 6-0/194, Jr.; Rob Rogers, G, 6-3/316, Sr. **Defense (8):** Dennis Cappella, E, 6-3/235, Sr.; Doyle Cockrell, T, 6-4/270, Jr.; Ed Hawthorne, T, 6-2/295, Jr.; Russ Heath, LB, 6-2/237, Sr.; Andy Kratochvil, E, 6-4/248, Sr.; Drinon Mays, CB, 5-10/185, Sr.; Jeff Rosga, FS, 6-1/197, Sr.; Andrew Veit, LB, 6-2/238, Sr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returnees: Mike Chalberg, K, Soph. (RS); Justin Conzemius, SS, Soph.; Chris Darkins, RB, Soph.; Lewis Garrison, SE, Jr.; Juan Hunter, CB, Jr.; Vincent Hypolite, DB, Soph.; Shaun Jackson, FL, Jr.; Dan LiSanti, SS, Jr.; Mike Long, WR, Jr.; Roderick Narcisse, CB, Soph.; Chuck Rios, RB, Jr. (RS/knee); Mark Smith, RB, Sr.; Rick Thome, C (will move to OG), Jr.; David Vertin, OT, Jr.; Lance Wolkow, LB, Sr.

Top newcomers: Toby Anderson, OL, Soph. (RS); Terrance Blayne, CB, Fr.; Jerome Davis, DE, Fr. (RS); Rishon Early, FL, Fr. (RS); Kevin Holmes, DE, Fr. (RS); Jon Jellum, DE, Fr.; Andre Jones, CB, Soph. (JC); Cory Sauter, QB, Fr.; Tim Schade, QB, Jr. (transfer/Texas Christian); Mark Tangen, TE, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Penn State, Sept. 4; Indiana State, Sept. 11; Kansas State, Sept. 18; at San Diego State, Sept. 25; Indiana, Oct. 2; Purdue, Oct. 9; at Northwestern, Oct. 16; Wisconsin, Oct. 23; at Illinois, Nov. 6; Michigan, Nov. 13; at Iowa, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Golden Gophers.

Site: Minneapolis.

Outlook: Coach Jim Wacker went from 1-8-2 in his first season at Texas Christian to 8-3 and a bowl bid in his second year, but similar progress at Minnesota is doubtful in '93. The Gophers have too much defensive improvement to make before they can think about cracking the Big Ten's first division.

Offensive strengths: The return of running back Chuck Rios from knee surgery deepens a position already well-stocked with Antonio Carter and Chris Darkins. With depth like that, it's too bad the Gophers are

committed to a one-back attack.

Offensive weaknesses: Pass protection was a problem for Minnesota throughout last season, and the loss of three linemen and of mobile quarterback Marquel Fleetwood won't help matters.

Defensive strengths: Second-team all-conference end Dennis Cappella headlines the return of Minnesota's entire starting line. That means the Gophers should reduce the 181.6 rushing yards per game they allowed in '92.

Defensive weaknesses: Wacker is trying to fortify his secondary with some speedy recruits from Texas, but if sophomore hold-overs Roderick Narcisse and Vincent Hypolite don't catch on fast, the results could be disastrous.

Special teams: Omar Douglas proved a threat on kickoff returns in addition to catching a school single-season record 61 passes last year. The return of Mike Chalberg from a redshirt year should help the Gophers on placements. The departed Aaron Piepkorn hit just seven of 12 extra points in Big Ten play last year.

Key to success: Wacker's nephew, quarterback Tim Schade, transferred from Texas Christian to Minnesota in 1992 and takes over as Fleetwood's replacement. Schade, who ran the same offense the Gophers employ as a five-game starter with the Horned Frogs as a freshman in '91, should help reduce the league-high 20 interceptions Minnesota threw last year.

Sure sign of trouble: Backup quarterback Rob St. Sauver was expelled from school, so if the shoulder problems that plagued Schade at Texas Christian resurface, a true freshman will start at quarterback. Ouch!

Coach Jim Wacker says: "We have to make a quantum leap forward. I don't want to make any drastic predictions, but we will be vastly improved." ■

SCOUTING THE BIG TEN

Ascending: Wisconsin and Northwestern. An upset loss to the Wildcats in last year's finale is all that kept the Badgers out of their first bowl since the 1984 season. Solid recruiting has fed Wisconsin's resurgence and Northwestern is using the same strategy to rebuild. The Wildcats' three league wins in '92 was their highest total since 1973.

Descending: Indiana and Michigan State. Everyone kept waiting for the Hoosiers to build on the back-to-back eight-win seasons they fashioned in 1987 and 1988. Since that time, however, Indiana has struggled. Michigan State also appeared to be a fixture among the elite after winning the Rose Bowl following the '87 season, but the Spartans have sunk in recent years, suffering the embarrassment of home losses to Mid-American Conference member Central Michigan the last two years.

Nightmare schedule: Michigan State. The Spartans haven't been over .500 after five games for five consecutive seasons, and they appear en route to another slow start in '93. They open with Kansas at home and Notre Dame on the road, then host Central Michigan. The Spartans then open Big Ten play with consecutive games against Michigan, Ohio State and Iowa. They conclude the year with a home game vs. Penn State and then travel to Japan the next week to play Wisconsin.

Dream schedule: Wisconsin. The Badgers don't play a Division I-A opponent who finished over .500 last year until the eighth game of the year. Even then, Wisconsin gets both Michigan and Ohio State at home, and after that has off weeks to prepare for closing games against Illinois and Michigan State.

Best matchup of the year: Michigan at Wisconsin on October 30. First place in the conference could be up for grabs. The Wolverines have won 41 of their 50 all-time meetings with the Badgers, but Camp Randall Stadium is a much tougher environment now than when Michigan last played there in 1990.

Worst matchup of the year: Houston at Michigan on September 25. Tyrone Wheatley returned the opening kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown and Todd Collins tied a Michigan single-game record with four touchdown passes in a 61-7 drubbing of Houston in '92. That was when both Wheatley and Collins were backups, so imagine what the Wolverines will do when the Cougars return to Ann Arbor.

Shocker of the year: Ohio State at Purdue on October 23. The Buckeyes better be ready when they travel to Ross-Ade Stadium. Boilermakers Coach Jim Colletto was John Cooper's offensive coordinator at

both Arizona State and Ohio State. That should swing the edge to Purdue.

Bowl bound: Michigan, Penn State, Ohio State and Wisconsin are locks. Illinois, Michigan State and Iowa are on the bubble.

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive line:
Ohio State

Best offensive backfield:
Michigan

Best backup quarterback:
Kerry Collins, Penn State

Best wide receivers:
Michigan

Best clutch receiver:
Derrick Alexander, Michigan

Best defensive line:
Ohio State

Best-hitting defensive lineman:
Mike Wells, Iowa

Best linebackers:
Illinois

Best-hitting linebacker:
Dana Howard, Illinois

Best secondary:
Penn State

Best-hitting defensive back:
Chico Nelson, Ohio State

Best kicking game:
Illinois

Best kick-coverage units:
Wisconsin

Best coaching staff:
Michigan

Best coach:
Barry Alvarez, Wisconsin

Best Heisman candidate:
Tyrone Wheatley, TB, Michigan

Best pro prospect:
Tyrone Wheatley, TB, Michigan

Biggest shoes to fill: Illinois quarterback Jason Verduzco's. The Illini owed their Holiday Bowl appearance last year almost exclusively to Verduzco's wizardry. With him gone, the Illini will struggle unless they find a quarterback.

Most underrated player: Illinois' John Holecck. He is every bit as hard to contain as his more publicized linebacking mate, Dana Howard.

Impact newcomers: Deollo Anderson, SS, Michigan, Fr. (RS); Ty Douthard, FB, Illinois, Fr. (RS); Reggie Garnett, LB, Michigan State, Fr.; Jason Henlon, CB, Iowa, Jr. (JC); Carl

McCullough, RB, Wisconsin, Fr.; Bret Powers, QB, Ohio State, Sr. (transfer/Arizona State); Tim Schade, QB, Minnesota, Jr. (transfer/Texas Christian).

Coach of the year: Barry Alvarez, Wisconsin. The Badgers' record has improved steadily during Alvarez's first three years. Their aggregate of 10 wins over the last two years equals their total from the five previous years combined.

Coach on the hot seat: John Cooper, Ohio State. This remains true as long as his team hasn't beaten Michigan or won a bowl game. Michigan State Coach George Perles also can expect a flame under his saddle if the Spartans don't improve.

Best bets: Sophomore Eddie George and redshirt freshman Travis McGuire will push seniors Raymont Harris and Butler By'not'e aside and take over as the tag-team tailbacks in Ohio State's offense. . . . Iowa won't lose three home games, a dubious feat it achieved last season. . . . Tyrone Wheatley will lead the Big Ten in rushing. . . . At least one Big Ten team will beat Notre Dame. Northwestern, Michigan, Michigan State and Purdue all get a crack at the Irish.

Odds and ends: Illinois has won five straight games against Ohio State and is the only Big Ten team other than Michigan ever to enjoy such a streak. . . . Michigan State, Minnesota, Northwestern and Wisconsin all won their conference openers last season for the first time since 1965. The wins by Minnesota, Northwestern and Wisconsin marked their first victories on the same day since November 9, 1974. . . . The last time the Big Ten expanded was in 1949, when Michigan State joined the league. . . . The Big Ten has reached an agreement to send its fourth-place team to the Hall of Fame Bowl in Tampa. . . . Wisconsin and Michigan State moved their game from October 2 in Madison to December 4 in Tokyo when they were offered heavy guarantees to play in the Coca-Cola Bowl. . . . Michigan had a Big Ten-high six players picked in the 1993 NFL draft.

—BRUCE HOOLEY

RETURNING LEADERS

Rushing: Tyrone Wheatley, Michigan, 112.2 yds./game (170 att., 1,122 yds., 10 TDs, 6.6 avg.).

Passing efficiency: Len Williams, Northwestern, 131.7 rating pts. (286 att., 181 comp., 2,110 yds., 11 TDs).

Total offense: Len Williams, Northwestern, 202.6 yds./game (119 yds. rushing, 2,110 yds. passing, 2,229 total yds.).

Receiving: Lee Gissendanner, Northwestern, 6.2 rec./game (68 rec., 846 yds., 6 TDs, 12.4 avg.).

Scoring: Tyrone Wheatley, Michigan, 8.4 pts./game (14 TDs, 0 PATs, 0 FGs, 84 pts.).

Punting: Jim DiGuilio, Indiana, 44.3 avg. (53 punts, 2,347 yds.).

Punt returns: Lee Gissendanner, Northwestern, 21.8 avg. (15 att., 327 yds., 1 TD).

Kickoff returns: Jermaine Ross, Purdue, 22.5 avg. (24 att., 540 yds., 0 TDs).

Field goals: Tim Williams, Ohio State, 1.5 FG/game (16/29 FGs, 55%).

Interceptions: Jay Davis, Indiana, .45 int./game (5 int., 3 yds., 0 TDs).



Pass happy: Quarterback Len Williams is perfect for what Northwestern hopes to accomplish.

Ever-changing Big West could use a new name

By MIKE DIGIOVANNA

Los Angeles Times

If there is strength in numbers, then the Big West Conference should be mighty strong in 1993.

Last season's seven-team league is now a 10-team conglomerate after the addition of former independents Arkansas State, Louisiana Tech, Northern Illinois and Southwestern Louisiana. Cal State Fullerton, following the lead set the previous year by former Big West member Long Beach State, dropped its football program and is now out of the league.

The name of this conference, however, no longer seems to fit.

Big West? There are as many members in the Central time zone as there are in the Pacific; as many from Louisiana as from California. Maybe they should add another Bayou school and call it the Big Easy Conference. Or, if not for Northern Illinois, they could call it the Big West of the Mississippi Conference.

When the league was formed in 1969, it was called the Pacific Coast Athletic Association, and all seven schools were in California. Over time, the league added Utah State (1978), UNLV (1982), New Mexico State (1984) and Nevada (1992) without compromising its Western identity.

The way things have happened recently, however, the Big West may soon merge with the Big East to cut travel costs.

"It's a big something," New Mexico State Coach Jim Hess said. "I don't know what it is, but without some kind of merger, we wouldn't have enough schools to play."

"I know a lot of people in California aren't going to like it, but we sit in the middle and we like it."

And so do those former independents sitting on the right.

"I could see the difference in the players last spring," Southwestern Louisiana Coach Nelson Stokley said. "They have an opportunity to win a conference and go to a bowl game. They've never had anything to work for, but this will help us tremendously on the field."

1 UTAH STATE

Coach: Charlie Weatherbie (5-6, 1 year).

1992 record: 5-6. Big West: 4-2/T2nd.

Key losses: Robert Batch, LB; Doug Beach, P; Armando D'Avila, C; Brian Funk, OT; Joe Jacobs, DT; Mark Johnson, DT; Sean Jones, K; Joe Moore, OG; Stephen Robinson, DE; Greg Watts, WR.

Starters returning: Offense (7): Anthony Calvillo, QB, 6-2/175, Sr.; Jed DeVries, T, 6-6/280, Sr.; Toney Jenkins, WR, 5-11/174, Sr.; Jim Ray, WR, 6-3/205, Sr.; Aubrey Thompson, TE, 6-3/230, Sr.; Rich Tylski, G, 6-5/280, Sr.; Abu Wilson, RB, 6-0/195, Soph. Defense (7): David Balls, T, 6-2/250, Jr.; Gary Brown, LB, 5-11/206, Jr.; Michael Coe, SS, 5-11/185, Sr.; Efreem Haymore, CB, 5-11/175, Sr.; Damon Smith, FS, 5-10/163, Sr.; Donald Toomer, CB, 6-1/180, Jr.; Jermaine Younger, LB, 6-0/245, Sr. Kickers: None.

Other key returnees: Warren Bowers, C, Sr. (RS/knee); Tai Gordon, RB, Soph.; Shawn Griswold, DT, Soph.; Ernie Howren, OG, Sr.; Willie Jackson, LB, Jr.; Mike Lee, WR, Sr.; Jacson Maughan, OT, Sr.; Cotie McMahon, WR, Sr.; Scott Moala, DE, Sr.;

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. UTAH STATE
2. NEVADA
3. LOUISIANA TECH
4. SAN JOSE STATE
5. NORTHERN ILLINOIS
6. NEW MEXICO STATE
7. UNLV
8. PACIFIC
9. SOUTHWESTERN LA.
10. ARKANSAS STATE

Kelvin Poindexter, LB, Sr.; Dan-ie'l Taplin, DE, Sr.; Greg Thompson, TE, Sr.

Top newcomers: Charles McMillian, CB, Jr. (JC); Nate Morreale, P/K, Fr. (RS); Tyrone Trimble, DB, Jr. (JC); Duane Williams, WR, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: At Southwestern Louisiana, Sept. 4; at Utah, Sept. 11; Baylor, Sept. 18; at Fresno State, Sept. 25; at Louisiana State, Oct. 2; Nevada, Oct. 16; at UNLV, Oct. 23; Brigham Young, Oct. 30; Pacific, Nov. 6; Louisiana Tech, Nov. 13; at New Mexico State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Aggies.
Site: Logan, Utah.



Aggressive Aggie: Utah State linebacker Jermaine Younger is a Dick Butkus Award candidate.

Outlook: Linebacker Jermaine Younger is a Dick Butkus Award candidate and the Aggies are touting quarterback Anthony Calvillo as a Heisman Trophy contender. No wonder so many people expect Utah State's 13-year conference-title drought to end.

Offensive strengths: With Calvillo, running back Abu Wilson, receiver Toney Jenkins and a veteran line, offensive coordinator Jim Zorn may have more weapons at his disposal than he did as a quarterback with the Seattle Seahawks in the 1970s and '80s.

Offensive weaknesses: The Aggies must get more physical. They fell short on several crucial fourth-down plays last season.

Defensive strengths: Younger is tough enough to stuff any runner and nimble enough to stick with most receivers. So are Utah State's defensive backs.

Defensive weaknesses: Younger is good, but he's also in trouble. Law enforcement officials alleged in May that they found a gun in his possession, which would be in violation of the probation Younger received two years earlier in a credit-card fraud case. A judge was to decide in June whether to reinstate the one-to-15-year jail sentence Younger received in May 1991.

Special teams: The kicking and punting chores both might fall onto the shoulders of untested freshman Nate Morreale.

Keys to success: Improving the short-yardage and goal-line attack on offense and stopping the run and improving the pass rush on defense.

Sure sign of trouble: If yellow flags fly. The Aggies were the most-penalized team in the conference (851 yards) last season.

Coach Charlie Weatherbie says: "We'll definitely have an opportunity to win this conference and a lot of non-conference games."

2 NEVADA

Coach: Chris Ault (145-57-1, 17 years).

1992 record: 7-5 (lost to Bowling Green State in Las Vegas Bowl). Big West: 5-1/1st.

Key losses: Joe Caspers, DT; William Duckett, CB; Fred Gattlin, QB; Andre Howard, LB; Xavier Kairy, FS; William Lackey, CB; Brock Marion, CB; Shahriar Pourdanesh, OT; Steve Terelak, K.

Starters returning: Offense (10): Dedric Holmes, RB, 5-11/195, Jr.; Tony Lorenzi, G, 6-2/260, Jr.; Tom Matter, TE, 6-2/220, Sr.; Ryan O'Donnell, C, 6-4/245, Sr.; Bryan Reeves, WR, 5-11/185, Sr.; Todd Shara, G, 6-5/270, Sr.; Chris Singleton, WR, 6-2/200, Sr.; Michael Stephens, WR, 6-3/190, Sr.; Anthony Valentin, G, 6-1/250, Sr.; Chris Vargas, QB, 5-11/170, Sr. Defense (4): Steve Bryant, LB, 6-4/240, Sr.; Jim Jones, T, 6-2/270, Sr.; Lamonte Porter, LB, 6-2/215, Soph.; Martin Washington, LB, 6-2/220, Jr. Kickers (1): Steve Lester, P, 5-11/175, Jr.

Other key returnees: Matt Airolidi, OG, Sr.; Mike Breaux, OG, Jr.; Joe Dunn, DT, Soph.; James Johnson, CB, Soph.; Jeff Kondra, DE, Jr.; Mike Senior, WR, Jr.

Top newcomers: Andy Buh, LB, Jr. (JC); Bernie Chapman, DB, Jr.; Marcellus Chrishon, RB, Jr. (JC); Bob Cooper, OL, Jr. (JC); Mike Edwards, OL, Fr.; Sam Elliott, DB, Jr. (JC); Brian Fearnley, TE, Fr. (RS); Jeff Hadwick, OL, Fr. (RS); Tawan Hall, LB, Fr. (RS); Darnell Hasson, DB, Fr. (RS); Marlando Lewis, WR, Fr. (RS); Frank Marvitz, LB, Jr.

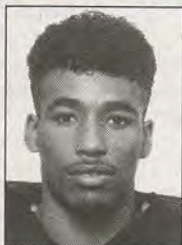
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TSN

PRESEASON ALL-BIG WEST TEAM

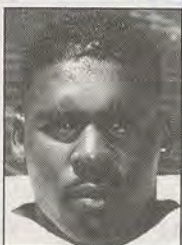
PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



LeShon
Johnson,
RB, Northern Illinois

DEFENSE



Jermaine
Younger,
LB, Utah State

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

Marcus Carter, WR, Southwestern Louisiana

DEFENSE:

Dan Godfrey, LB, San Jose State

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	HENRY BAILEY, UNLV	5-10/180	Jr.
WR	BRYAN REEVES, Nevada	5-11/185	Sr.
TE	RAYMOND ROBERTS, Northern Illinois	6-3/242	Sr.
T	JED DeVRIES, Utah State	6-6/280	Sr.
T	JERRY REYNOLDS, UNLV	6-6/300	Sr.
C	RYAN O'DONNELL, Nevada	6-4/245	Sr.
G	TIM O'BRIEN, Northern Illinois	6-4/283	Sr.
G	RICH TYLSKI, Utah State	6-5/280	Sr.
QB	JEFF GARCIA, San Jose State	6-1/190	Sr.
RB	NATHAN DUPREE, San Jose State	5-10/185	Sr.
RB	LESHON JOHNSON, Northern Illinois	6-0/201	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	KAVIN CRAWFORD, Louisiana Tech	6-2/270	Sr.
DL	TROY SIENKIEWICZ, New Mexico State	6-4/277	Jr.
DL	ERIK SIMIEN, UNLV	6-2/240	Sr.
LB	STEVE BRYANT, Nevada	6-4/240	Sr.
LB	GRANT CARTER, Pacific	6-3/224	Sr.
LB	JIM SINGLETON, San Jose State	6-2/225	Sr.
LB	JERMAINE YOUNGER, Utah State	6-0/245	Sr.
DB	MICHAEL COE, Utah State	5-11/185	Sr.
DB	DEE GRAYER, San Jose State	6-1/190	Jr.
DB	RODNEY MAZION, UNLV	5-8/160	Jr.
DB	DONALD TOOMER, Utah State	6-1/180	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	JOE NEDNEY, San Jose State	6-5/205	Jr.
P	LEE MYHRE, San Jose State	6-2/205	Sr.
AP	HENRY BAILEY, UNLV	5-10/180	Jr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	MARCUS CARTER, SW Louisiana	6-0/215	Sr.
WR	BRIAN LUNDY, San Jose State	5-10/166	Soph.
TE	TOM MATTER, Nevada	6-2/220	Sr.
T	ERIC ALVAREZ, Pacific	6-5/305	Sr.
T	STEVE CALVIN, Northern Illinois	6-6/350	Jr.
C	WARREN BOWERS, Utah State	6-3/272	Sr.
G	SAM HEINEN, Southwestern Louisiana	6-5/282	Soph.
G	CHRIS HILL, San Jose State	6-4/253	Soph.
QB	CHRIS VARGAS, Nevada	5-11/170	Sr.
RB	JASON COOPER, Louisiana Tech	6-0/204	Jr.
RB	ABU WILSON, Utah State	6-0/195	Soph.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	SHAWN GRISWOLD, Utah State	6-2/253	Soph.
DL	DAVID KARTHOUSER, Pacific	6-2/229	Sr.
DL	CLIFTON SYLVESTER, SW Louisiana	6-1/275	Soph.
LB	CARLOS BOLTON, Louisiana Tech	6-0/213	Sr.
LB	TIM MAUCK, New Mexico State	6-1/220	Sr.
LB	LAMONTE PORTER, Nevada	6-2/215	Soph.
LB	STEVE WILD, Northern Illinois	6-2/209	Sr.
DB	DEMETRI GAZELAS, Pacific	5-10/180	Sr.
DB	JEFF RUSSELL, Pacific	6-0/180	Jr.
DB	DONALD STOWERS, New Mexico State	6-2/200	Sr.
DB	ORLANDA THOMAS, SW Louisiana	6-1/193	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	BRIAN STEGER, Northern Illinois	6-1/170	Sr.
P	CHAD ZECH, New Mexico State	6-0/190	Soph.

(JC); David Miller, DE, Soph. (Prop 48); Garnett Overby, DB, Fr. (RS); Buddy Wellman, K, Fr. (RS).
Schedule: At Wisconsin, Sept. 4; Boise State, Sept. 11; Texas Southern, Sept. 18; Northern Illinois, Sept. 25; UNLV, Oct. 2; at Utah State, Oct. 16; Weber State, Oct. 23; at Pacific, Oct. 30; San Jose State, Nov. 6; at New Mexico State, Nov. 13; at Arkansas State, Nov. 20.
Nickname: Wolf Pack.
Site: Reno, Nev.

Outlook: In 1992, the Wolf Pack became the first football team to win a conference championship in its first season in Division I-A. A successful title defense, however, depends on the success of the defense.

Offensive strengths: Where do we start? Quarterback Chris Vargas is nicknamed "Magic" because of his ability to orchestrate comebacks. Bryan Reeves is one of the best receivers on the West Coast. Marcellus Chrishon, a junior college transfer, will boost the running game.

Offensive weaknesses: Much of the line returns, but it might lack the size Nevada needs as it moves from a quick-strike offense to a ball-control attack.

Defensive strengths: Steve Bryant is an extremely active and agile outside linebacker. Lamonte Porter, the Wolf Pack's leading tackler last year, is a gap-plugger at inside linebacker.

Defensive weaknesses: The entire secondary must be rebuilt and depth on the line is questionable.

Special teams: The lack of a standout kicker could hurt, especially if Nevada keeps playing close, high-scoring games. Chris Singleton (kickoffs) and Reeves (punts) are ex-

plosive return men.

Key to success: Taking time to score. It may seem strange, but Coach Chris Ault doesn't want his offense to score as quickly as it did last season. A better ground game and more time-consuming drives are needed to keep a young defense off the field.

Sure sign of trouble: If Vargas gets injured. Unlike last season, Nevada doesn't have an experienced backup quarterback.



Good mix: Bulldogs back Jason Cooper has a fine blend of speed and strength.

Coach Chris Ault says: "We have to play good defense with our offense by making a concentrated effort to improve our running game."

3

LOUISIANA TECH

Coach: Joe Raymond Peace (30-21-4, 5 years).

1992 record: 5-6 as an independent.

Key losses: Daryl Altic, P; Myron Baker, LB; Paul Bland, FL; John Boyd, CB; Carey Broudy, FS; Wade Christensen, TE; Shannon Cornelius, DE; Doug Evans, SS; Nate Goodyear, C; Sam Hughes, QB; Jerald Kennedy, WR; Corey Parham, SE; David Parker, OT; Herman Piete, LB; Willie Roaf, OT; Baron Rollins, OG; Artie Smith, DT; Lloyd Wheelchel, OG; Steve Wilson, DE.

Starters returning: Offense (1): Jason Cooper, RB, 6-0/204, Jr. Defense (3): Kavin Crawford, T, 6-2/270, Sr.; Chris Gray, CB, 5-11/170, Jr.; Fred Price, LB, 6-3/220, Jr. Kickers (1): Chris Boniol, K, 6-0/180, Sr.

Other key returnees: Key Battle, LB, Sr.; Carlos Bolton, LB, Sr.; Rodney Bruce, CB, Sr.; Brad Bull, C, Jr.; Jerry Byrd, OT, Soph.; Aaron Ferguson, QB, Sr.; Brian Francis, WR, Sr.; Thedrick Harris, DT, Jr.; Shannon Jenkins, LB, Soph.; Ferris Keller, DE, Soph.; Greg Lancaster, OG, Jr.; Gerald Lawrence, WR, Jr.; Dino Lenox, SS, Jr.; Derrick Moore, DE, Soph.; Cliff Parks, FL, Sr.; Eric Redmon, RB, Sr.; John Rogers, OG, Soph.; Jerome Thomas, TE, Jr.; Preston Washington, OT, Soph.

Top newcomers: Tony Barnes, FS, Fr. (RS); Spencer Heard, WR, Fr. (RS); Chad Mackey, RB, Fr. (RS); Jason Martin, QB, Fr. (RS); Trenton Ropp, TE, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: At Tennessee, Sept. 4; at South Carolina, Sept. 18; at Alabama, Sept. 25; Arkansas State, Oct. 2; at East Carolina, Oct. 16; at San Jose State, Oct. 23; Northern Illinois, Oct. 30; UNLV, Nov. 6; at Utah State, Nov. 13; Central Florida, Nov. 20; at Southwestern Louisiana, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Bulldogs.
Site: Ruston, La.

Outlook: The Bulldogs won't have the Big West's most prolific offense, but their quick, hard-hitting defense will keep them in title contention.

Offensive strengths: Running back Jason Cooper has a fine blend of speed and strength, and quarterback Aaron Ferguson is a quick thinker who is very mobile for someone his size.

Offensive weaknesses: The entire line will be new, and with the Bulldogs' first three games on the road in the Southeastern Conference, the line undoubtedly will experience some growing pains, aches, bumps and bruises.

Defensive strengths: As long as tackle Kávin Crawford and linebackers Carlos Bolton and Fred Price are around, few teams will manhandle the Bulldogs up front.

Defensive weaknesses: An inexperienced secondary could be vulnerable against strong passing teams.

Special teams: The kicking game with Chris Boniol and the return teams with Eric Redmon are in good shape, but is there a punter in the house?

Keys to success: The Bulldogs must keep those chains and the clock moving with their running game. A solid pass rush will ease pressure on the secondary.

Sure sign of trouble: If a running game isn't established, a heavy burden will fall on the quarterback and the defense.

Coach Joe Raymond Peace says: "Youth and experience don't come at the same time, but if we stay healthy early on, we'll get better as we go."

4 SAN JOSE STATE

Coach: John Ralston (first year; 86-47-3 overall, 13 years).

1992 record: 7-4. Big West: 4-2/T2nd.

Key losses: Raymond Bowles, LB; Mike Fortino, OG; Lester Grice, CB; Marty Lyon, DT; Sean Neel, DT; Kevin O'Connell, NG; Travis Peterson, OG; Todd Ranney, OT; Alfred Robinson, DB; Rich Sarlatte, TE; Nick Trammer, C; Anthony Washington, DB.

Starters returning: Offense (6): Charlie Adams, FB, 6-2/230, Soph.; Nathan DuPree, TB, 5-10/185, Sr.; Jeff Garcia, QB, 6-1/190, Sr.; Chris Hill, T, 6-4/253, Soph.; Jason Lucky, WR, 5-10/180, Sr.; Brian Lundy, WR, 5-10/166, Soph. Defense (4): Derrick Childs, LB, 6-3/206, Sr.; Dee Grayer, CB, 6-1/190, Jr.; Troy Jensen, S, 5-9/179, Sr.; Jim Singleton, LB, 6-2/225, Sr. Kickers (2): Joe Nedney, K, 6-5/205, Jr.; Lee Myhre, P, 6-2/205, Sr.

Other key returnees: Shon Ellerbe, TB, Sr. (RS/illness); Elliott Franklin, CB, Sr.; John Mountain, FB, Sr.; Tom Pettithomme, TE, Sr.; Jerry Reese, WR, Jr.; Tom Sotelo, DT, Soph.

Top newcomers: Wally Bonnett, OG, Sr. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton); John Cotti, OT, Sr. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton); Dan Godfrey, LB, Jr. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton); Robert Gregory, DT, Jr. (JC); Paul Pitts, CB, Sr. (transfer/Brigham Young).

Schedule: At Louisville, Sept. 4; at Stanford, Sept. 11; Wyoming, Sept. 18; at California, Sept. 25; at Washington, Oct. 2; at New Mexico State, Oct. 16; Louisiana Tech, Oct. 23; at Southwestern Louisiana, Oct. 30; at Nevada, Nov. 6; UNLV, Nov. 13; Pacific, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Spartans.
Site: San Jose, Calif.

Outlook: San Jose State's third coaching change in four years, this time with 66-year-old John Ralston taking the reins, may catch up with the Spartans in 1993. As a result, they could slip from their usual perch near the top of the conference.

Offensive strengths: There's no better



He's tops: *There's no better quarterback in the Big West than San Jose State's Jeff Garcia.*

quarterback in the Big West than Jeff Garcia, a versatile senior whose arm isn't overpowering but whose knowledge of and feel for the game are. Tailback Nathan DuPree is a threat as a runner and as a receiver. Tailback Shon Ellerbe, who showed promise in 1991 but sat out last season because of illness, is back this season.

Offensive weaknesses: The line will be new, and a Murderers' Row schedule won't give it much time to develop.

Defensive strengths: Middle linebacker Jim Singleton is feisty against the run, and passers will have difficulty picking on a veteran secondary headed by Dee Grayer.

Defensive weaknesses: A shortage of talented linemen will force the Spartans to stunt and gamble, which could leave them vulnerable to big plays.

Special teams: San Jose State has the league's most reliable kicking game in place-kicker Joe Nedney and punter Lee Myhre.

Keys to success: Protecting Garcia and surviving back-to-back, potential bone-jarring, artificial-turf games at California and Washington early in the season.

Sure sign of trouble: If Garcia is forced to scramble too much. That would destroy the rhythm of a passing game that relies heavily on precision and timing patterns.

Coach John Ralston says: "Hopefully, we'll get through the early schedule without getting hurt, but the law of averages says we're going to get nicked somewhere. That's a major concern because we're so thin."

5 NORTH ILLINOIS

Coach: Charlie Sadler (7-15, 2 years).
1992 record: 5-6 as an independent.

Key losses: Brad Capes, OT; Rich Favor, CB; Scott Hein, LB; Tom Rhomberg, FS; Jeff Taylor, SS; Rob Wagner, NG; Kurt Weinberg, C; Larry Wynn, FL.

Starters returning: Offense (8): Brian Cotton, FB, 6-

0/224, Sr.; Scott Crabtree, QB, 6-1/199, Sr.; LeShon Johnson, TB, 6-0/201, Sr.; Tim O'Brien, G, 6-4/283, Sr.; Joe Patterson, G, 6-2/288, Sr.; Vaurice Patterson, SE, 5-11/165, Jr.; Raymond Roberts, TE, 6-3/242, Sr.; Derek Sholdice, T, 6-4/286, Soph. Defense (6): MacArthur Griffin, CB, 5-11/184, Jr.; Matt LeVoi, E, 6-4/238, Sr.; Paul McAndrews, E, 6-7/256, Sr.; Gerald Nickelberry, LB, 6-1/202, Jr.; Tony Smith, LB, 5-11/212, Sr.; Steve Wild, LB, 6-2/209, Sr. Kickers (2): Jamie Dobay, P, 5-11/159, Soph.; Brian Steger, K, 6-1/170, Sr.

Other key returnees: Otha Brooks, SE, Soph.; Greg Bryant, DE, Jr. (RS/academics); Matt Clarkson, OT, Sr.; Eddie Davis, CB, Jr.; Marwin Leslie, CB, Jr.; Jerry Manuel, NG, Sr.; Rob Pink, OG, Jr. (RS/academics); Steve Rodgers, TB/SE, Sr.; C.J. Rose, LB, Soph.; Chad Smith, FS, Soph.; Dante Wharton, FB, Jr.

Top newcomers: Andy Antione, SE, Fr. (RS); Duane Arrindell, DE, Fr. (RS); Steve Calvin, OT, Jr. (JC); Sam Denson, SS, Jr. (JC); Tony Eggleston, LB, Jr. (JC); Alton Francis, TB, Fr. (RS); Brian Grimes, TB/FB, Jr. (JC); Mitch Jacoby, TE, Fr. (RS); Eric Moss, CB, Jr. (JC); Chris O'Neal, C, Jr. (JC); Greg Parrish, SS, Fr. (RS); Steve Rhoads, DE, Fr. (RS); Kenya Smith, CB, Jr. (JC); Ralph Strickland, SE, Jr. (JC); Mike Sutherland, C, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Iowa State, Sept. 2; at Indiana, Sept. 11; Arkansas State, Sept. 18; at Nevada, Sept. 25; Southern Illinois, Oct. 2; at New Mexico State, Oct. 9; Pacific, Oct. 16; Southwestern Louisiana, Oct. 23; at Louisiana Tech, Oct. 30; at Iowa, Nov. 6; at Mississippi, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Huskies.

Site: DeKalb, Ill.

Outlook: LeShon Johnson has been billed as the best running back east of San Diego. The Huskies are big, strong, experienced and could compete for the Big West championship.

Offensive strengths: The focal point is Johnson, the nation's second-leading returning rusher (1,338 yards) behind San Diego State's Marshall Faulk. If opponents key too much on Johnson, fullback Brian Cotton will burn them.

Offensive weaknesses: Not many, but

Continued

the Huskies last season had a penchant for making mental errors to kill drives.

Defensive strengths: Tony Smith, Steve Wild and Gerald Nickelberry are undersized but hardly undermanned linebackers—they combined to make 356 tackles last season.

Defensive weaknesses: Seven of the 24 players the Huskies signed last winter were defensive backs. There's a reason.

Special teams: Brian Steger is a dependable kicker, but no one will be calling the return men "Rocket" or "Neon" anytime soon.

Keys to success: Keeping Johnson healthy and getting a productive season from quarterback Scott Crabtree, which would take some heat off the running game. The secondary must mature quickly to survive in the pass-happy Big West.

Sure signs of trouble: If Johnson gets hurt and if the defense can't stop the pass. Johnson is a lethal weapon, but you don't want to get into any high-scoring shootouts with those gun-slingers from Nevada.

Coach Charlie Sadler says: "We have a great tailback and we want to get him the ball in as many ways and as often as we can."

6 NEW MEXICO ST.

Coach: Jim Hess (9-24, 3 years; overall 121-77-5, 18 years).

1992 record: 6-5. Big West: 3-3/T3rd.

Key losses: Sam Austrino, NT; Shawn Bowman, OT; Ezell Brown, HB; Todd Cutler, TE; Daryle Donahue, LB; Fred Montgomery, WR; Charles Puleri, QB; Atlas Reagor, FL; Eric Schmlerer, OG; Norman Steele, DE; Lawrence Truehill, FB (academically ineligible for '93); George Tuioti, DE.

Starters returning: Offense (3): Heath Haedge, G, 6-3/245, Soph.; Ishan Rison, T, 6-1/250, Sr.; Gerald Slovacek, C, 6-2/259, Jr. Defense (7): David Barera, CB, 5-11/186, Sr.; Bryan Duplessis, LB, 6-3/210, Jr.; Tim Mauck, LB, 6-1/220, Sr.; Marc Shaw, SS, 6-0/185, Sr.; Donald Stowers, FS, 6-2/200, Sr.; Mike Wall, LB, 6-1/230, Sr.; Cedric Walton, CB, 5-9/175, Soph. Kickers (2): Bubba Culin, PK, 6-3/195, Soph.; Chad Zecha, P, 6-0/190, Soph.

Other key returnees: Troy Dublin, RB, Sr.; Aaron Laing, TE, Sr.; Cody Ledbetter, QB, Soph. (RS); David Osborne, WR, Jr.; Brian Pizula, RB, Jr.; Troy Sienkiewicz, OL/DL, Jr.

Top newcomers: Polee Banks, FL, Jr. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton).

Schedule: At Kansas State, Sept. 4; Texas-El Paso, Sept. 18; at New Mexico, Sept. 25; at Arkansas State, Oct. 2; Northern Illinois, Oct. 9; San Jose State, Oct. 16; at Pacific, Oct. 23; at UNLV, Oct. 30; at Auburn, Nov. 6; Nevada, Nov. 13; Utah State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Aggies.

Site: Las Cruces, N.M.

Outlook: The Aggies are coming off their first winning season in 14 years, but fans in Las Cruces won't be tearing down goal posts very soon. Coach Jim Hess believes this is a better team than the '92 squad, but it isn't a championship team.

Offensive strengths: Running back Troy Dublin has good speed and quarterback Cody Ledbetter has some starting experience.

Offensive weaknesses: The only returning wide receiver (David Osborne) caught three passes last year, so inexperience at the position may force New Mexico State into a two tight-end set. Leading rusher Lawrence Truehill was ruled academically ineligible.

Defensive strengths: A more seasoned secondary should minimize the Aggies' dis-

turbing tendency of allowing a lot of big plays on third down. Linebacker Tim Mauck fills holes better than Spackle.

Defensive weaknesses: Hess says his inexperienced defensive line "has a chance to be good." It has a chance to be bad, too.

Special teams: The Aggies lost the nation's No. 1 kickoff returner (Fred Montgomery) and No. 16 punt returner (Ezell Brown), so why is everyone smiling? Because Polee Banks, a Cal State Fullerton transfer, is good enough to replace both of them.

Keys to success: The development of Ledbetter and his receivers. Ledbetter, a speedy lefthander who is effective on sprint-out passes, played in six games as a true freshman in 1991 but was redshirted last season.

Sure sign of trouble: If Hess keeps interviewing for other coaching jobs. He did at the end of last season, and recruits might begin to wonder.

Coach Jim Hess says: "We stopped the bleeding, but the program isn't built yet."

7 UNLV

Coach: Jim Strong (14-19, 3 years).

1992 record: 6-5. Big West: 3-3/T4th.

Key losses: John Hurley, OT; Lonnie Palelei, OG; Brian Parvin, P; Tom Riley, DE; Mike Smalls, LB.

Starters returning: Offense (9): Henry Bailey, WR, 5-10/180, Jr.; Kenneth Crump, TE, 6-3/245, Sr.; Omar Love, RB, 6-1/180, Soph.; John Ma'ae, QB, 6-1/205, Sr.; Howard McGowan, C, 6-4/260, Jr.; Shannon McLean, TB, 6-1/220, Jr.; Jerry Reynolds, T, 6-6/300, Sr.; Doug Roper, G, 6-1/260, Sr.; Demond Thompkins, WR, 5-11/165, Jr. Defense (10): Stephen Anderson, T, 6-3/265, Sr.; Jason Davis, SS, 6-0/180, Jr.; Rumone Hilton, LB, 6-0/230, Sr.; D'Mentrie Lacy, CB, 6-2/180, Sr.; Clarence Mack, CB, 6-0/185, Jr.; Rodney Mazion, FS, 5-8/160, Jr.; Erik Simien, E, 6-2/240, Sr.; Reese Thomas, LB, 6-0/210, Sr.; William (Tiger) Townes, T, 6-5/270, Sr.; Keith Washington, E, 6-4/250, Jr. Kickers (1): Nick Garritano, K, 6-0/240, Jr.



Gap filler: New Mexico State linebacker Tim Mauck fills holes better than Spackle.

Other key returnees: Aunwan Armstrong, CB, Sr.; Rossie Johnson, DE/LB, Soph.; Robbie Morrison, OG, Soph. (RS/hand); Tyrone Scott, SS, Jr.; Bob Stockham, QB, Sr.

Top newcomers: DeJohn Branch, RB, Fr. (RS); Jared Brown, QB, Jr. (JC); DeShannon Campbell, DL, Jr. (JC); Bradley Faunce, P, Jr. (JC); Rick Mausau, DL, Jr. (JC); Fred McClenon, TE, Fr.; Corey Sears, DL, Jr. (JC); Dan Stewart, CB, Fr. (RS/knee).

Schedule: At Clemson, Sept. 4; at Texas-El Paso, Sept. 11; Central Michigan, Sept. 18; at Kansas State, Sept. 25; at Nevada, Oct. 2; Cal State Northridge, Oct. 9; Utah State, Oct. 23; New Mexico State, Oct. 30; at Louisiana Tech, Nov. 6; at San Jose State, Nov. 13; Southwestern Louisiana, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Rebels.

Site: Las Vegas, Nev.

Outlook: The Rebels have taken their lumps with freshmen and sophomores the last two seasons. This year they're older and wiser, but not so much better that they'll contend for the Big West title.

Offensive strengths: There's plenty of big-play potential in receivers Henry Bailey and Demond Thompkins and tailback Shannon McLean, who was slowed by an ankle injury in 1992.

Offensive weaknesses: It's a good thing quarterback John Ma'ae is versatile and quick. He may be on the run a lot with an inexperienced line.

Defensive strengths: There aren't many on the 101st-best defense in Division I-A. Safety Rodney Mazion and ends Keith Washington and Erik Simien are the Rebels' best defenders.

Defensive weaknesses: UNLV's lack of overall team speed again will be exploited.

Special teams: Place-kicker Nick Garritano is bigger than most Rebel linebackers, but he has a soft touch. Bailey is the most dangerous kick returner in the league.

Key to success: Surviving a schedule that has UNLV on the road for four of its first five

games.

Sure sign of trouble: If the offensive line breaks down. UNLV needs to score a lot of points to have a winning season.

Coach Jim Strong says: "We bit the bullet with young kids to get the foundation built, but we're at a stage now where the guys who are playing have some experience."

8 PACIFIC

Coach: Chuck Shelton (3-8, 1 year; 69-106-1 overall, 17 years).

1992 record: 3-8. Big West: 2-4/6th.

Key losses: Eddie Ausherman, K; Ryan Benjamin, RB; Greg Bishop, OT; Troy Kopp, QB; David Parris, OG; Randy Pauletto, C; Shawn Price, DT; Aaron Turner, WR; Kale Wedemeyer, WR.

Starters returning: Offense (5): Erik Alvarez, L, 6-5/305, Sr.; Trent Julian, WR, 6-2/197, Sr.; Aaron McClellan, L, 6-3/258, Jr.; Ron Smith, WR, 6-2/180, Soph.; Dan Weldon, L, 6-5/273, Soph. Defense (8): Jami Anderson, LB, 6-0/215, Jr.; Grant Carter, LB, 6-3/224, Sr.; Darius Cunningham, CB, 5-9/180, Jr.; Dimitri Gazelas, S, 5-10/180, Sr.; Dominic Kaanaana, LB, 6-0/225, Sr.; Jeff Russell, S, 6-0/180, Jr.; Owen Taylor, NT, 6-1/275, Sr.; Duane Thomas, CB, 5-11/176, Jr. Kickers (1): Jason Schouten, P, 6-4/199, Sr.

Other key returns: Chuckie Bibbs, DB, Sr.; Jessie Campbell, RB, Sr.; Rodney Campbell, DB, Soph.; Dave Henigan, QB, Sr.; David Karthaus, NT, Sr.; Jay Mayo, WR, Soph.; Steve Mehl, RB, Sr.; Leo Molly, OL, Jr.; Matt Nicholls, OL, Jr.; Daryl Rogers, RB, Sr.; Craig Whelan, QB, Jr.

Top newcomers: Erick Anderson, DT, Jr. (JC); Eric Atkins, WR, Jr. (JC); Howard Blackwell, TB, Jr. (JC); Vincent Church, DB, Jr. (JC); Michael Edwards, RB, Fr. (RS); Jeff Endes, TE, Jr. (JC); Stanley Green, RB, Jr. (JC); Nick Sellers, QB, Soph. (transfer/Idaho State); Eric Stavola, LB, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: At Texas Tech, Sept. 4; at Arizona, Sept. 11; Sacramento State, Sept. 25; Washington State, Oct. 2; at Oregon State, Oct. 9; at Northern Illinois, Oct. 16; New Mexico State, Oct. 23; Nevada, Oct. 30; at Utah State, Nov. 6; Arkansas State, Nov. 13; at San Jose State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Tigers.
Site: Stockton, Calif.

Outlook: In a bizarre twist, Pacific's defense may be better than its offense in 1993. Regardless, the Tigers are a year away from contending in the Big West.

Offensive strengths: Steve Mehl and Stanley Green lead a stable of fine running backs that has prompted a switch in offensive schemes from the run-and-shoot to a two-back alignment.

Offensive weaknesses: Good backs aren't the only reason for the increased emphasis on the running game. The receiving corps is very thin.

Defensive strengths: The secondary, the main reason for Pacific's dramatic improvement on defense last season (the Tigers ranked second in the Big West against the pass), returns intact.

Defensive weaknesses: The Tigers can only wish their inside linebackers were as good as gifted outside linebacker Grant Carter.

Special teams: Ryan Benjamin and Aaron Turner will be missed on the return teams, but junior college transfer Eric Atkins should ease the loss.

Key to success: The offense, led by left-handed quarterback Dave Henigan, doesn't have to be great, but it must be solid and make few mistakes.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Tigers are

forced to throw a lot. They simply don't have the offensive weapons they've had the last two seasons.

Coach Chuck Shelton says: "The run-and-shoot put too much pressure on our defense. The two-back (offense) will help us control the ball more. It's more conventional and I feel better about it. I'm not too smart. I don't want to outcoach myself."

9 SW LOUISIANA

Coach: Nelson Stokley (34-42-1, 7 years).

1992 record: 2-9 as an independent.

Key losses: James Atkins, DT; Randy Baggett, P; Isaac Benefield, TB; Wayde Butler, WR; Donald Collins, S; Matt Cruise, OG; Richie Cunningham, K; Damon Denaburg, FB; Tyjuan Hayes, QB; Harold Nash, CB; Terrance Ross, LB; William Sims, LB.

Starters returning: Offense (7): Sam Heinen, T, 6-5/282, Soph.; Harry Lemming, G, 6-2/248, Sr.; Steve Mocek, RB, 5-9/194, Jr.; Buck Moncla, TE, 6-2/258, Sr.; Brian Sansalone, T, 6-4/273, Soph.; Robby Waguespack, C, 6-1/260, Sr.; Tori Williams, WR, 6-0/205, Jr. Defense (7): Marc LeBlanc, LB, 6-3/210, Sr.; Conrad Lewis, NG, 6-0/265, Sr.; Charles Pool, LB, 5-11/223, Sr.; John Robinson, T, 6-5/260, Sr.; Fernando Thomas, CB, 6-0/190, Jr.; Orlando Thomas, S, 6-1/193, Jr.; Elton Ward, LB, 6-0/222, Jr. Kickers (1): Mike Shafer, K, 5-11/175, Soph.

Other key returns: Patrice Alexander, LB, Jr.; Keno Hills, OT, Soph.; Clifton Sylvester, DL, Soph.

Top newcomers: Marcus Carter, WR, Sr. (transfer/Louisiana State); Jason Sanborn, QB, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Utah State, Sept. 4; at Miami of Ohio, Sept. 11; Memphis State, Sept. 18; Southern Mississippi, Oct. 2; at Tulane, Oct. 9; at Arkansas State, Oct. 16; at Northern Illinois, Oct. 23; San Jose State, Oct. 30; at Florida, Nov. 6; at UNLV, Nov. 20; Louisiana Tech, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Ragin' Cajuns.
Site: Lafayette, La.

Outlook: The Ragin' Cajuns have to hope that an infusion of Division I and junior college transfers will make them a more consistent team in 1993 than they were in '92. Last year, they lost at home to Cal State Fullerton and nearly upset Auburn on the road in consecutive weeks.

Offensive strengths: Marcus Carter, a transfer from Louisiana State who was Freshman of the Year in the Southeastern Conference in 1990, is a game-breaking wide receiver. Tackles Sam Heinen and Keno Hills solidify the line.

Offensive weaknesses: The Ragin' Cajuns made a pretty gutsy move when they decided to shift from an option offense to a drop-back, passing style. Their quarterback, Jason Sanborn, has never taken a snap in a Division I game.

Defensive strengths: The middle of the lineup features two heavy hitters in linebacker Patrice Alexander and free safety Orlando Thomas.

Defensive weaknesses: Offense isn't the only thing that's changed. The Cajuns' switch from a read-and-react defense to more of an attack-oriented mode could be hampered by a lack of depth in the line and in the secondary.

Special teams: Carter should be a big-play kick returner, but the loss of place-kicker Richie Cunningham and punter Randy Baggett leaves a huge void.

Key to success: Sanborn, who threw for 3,942 yards and 26 touchdowns in two junior college seasons, must make a successful transition to Division I.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Ragin' Cajuns

lose their first few games and have to battle just to regain their confidence.

Coach Nelson Stokley says: "If we have a good start, we have a chance to be a good team."

10 ARKANSAS STATE

Coach: John Bobo (first year as head coach).

1992 record: 2-9 as an independent.

Key losses: Cedric Buckley, LB; Kendrick Bullard, WR; Andre Coleman, NG; Roy Collier, CB; Jimbo Griffin, TE; Lee Hunt, OG; Kenny Ingram, DE; Ryan Jose, K; Aubrey Miller, LB; Devin Petzoldt, OT; Elshon Richmond, SS; Richard Smith, OT; Eric Tate, C. **Starters returning:** Offense (4): Blake Denison, FL, 5-7/165, Sr.; Stacy Harrell, G, 6-1/295, Jr.; Tom Sears, QB, 6-1/195, Sr.; Jerrold Seymore, FB, 5-7/215, Jr. Defense (5): Carlos Emmons, E, 6-4/220, Soph.; Curtis Fitch, CB, 5-11/180, Jr.; Mike McDonald, T, 6-2/265, Sr.; Lucas Perkins, T, 6-1/255, Soph.; Clark Watkins, FS, 5-11/175, Soph. Kickers (2): Kyle Richardson, P, 6-3/185, Soph.; Joey Staples, K, 6-0/170, Soph.

Other key returns: Michael Beason, LB, Sr.; Sammy Bell, FS, Soph.; Anthony Bowman, OT, Soph.; Dale Carpenter, LB, Jr.; Wayne Cope, OT, Sr.; Stacy Crockett, HB, Jr. (will move to CB); DeSoto Dickson, RB, Soph.; Maurice Harris, QB, Soph.; Marcus Lawson, LB, Sr.; Eric Linsy, LB, Soph.; Lorenzo Parker, OG, Jr.; Austin Tinsley, FB, Soph.

Top newcomers: Brian Andrews, QB, Fr. (RS/elbow); Gary Jackson, DE, Fr. (RS); Corey Walker, RB, Soph. (Prop 48).

Schedule: At Florida, Sept. 4; New Mexico State, Sept. 11; at Northern Illinois, Sept. 18; Southern Illinois, Sept. 25; at Louisiana Tech, Oct. 2; at Memphis State, Oct. 9; Southwestern Louisiana, Oct. 16; at Mississippi State, Oct. 23; Northeast Louisiana, Nov. 6; at Pacific, Nov. 13; Nevada, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Indians.
Site: Jonesboro, Ark.

Outlook: The Indians begin their second season in Division I-A with a rookie head coach, a roster that is extremely thin in the lines and a schedule that includes games at Florida and Mississippi State. Ouch. Another 2-9 record would be quite an accomplishment.

Offensive strengths: Fullbacks Jerrold Seymore and Austin Tinsley are quick, powerful runners, and quarterback Tom Sears has at least some experience.

Offensive weaknesses: Depth on the line. Departed center Eric Tate set an NCAA record last year when he played every snap in every game.

Defensive strengths: There is depth in the secondary, but only because three offensive players have been moved there.

Defensive weaknesses: Take your pick. This team gave up an average of 36.5 points per game last season.

Special teams: This was one of the Indians' few bright spots last season. Punter Kyle Richardson and improving place-kicker Joey Staples both return.

Key to success: Making opponents work harder and longer to score. The Indians won't stop many teams, but if they force them to drive 80 yards for touchdowns instead of allowing big plays, they'll be more competitive.

Sure sign of trouble: Injuries on either line. Coach John Bobo signed 14 linemen last winter (11 high schoolers) but doesn't want to thrust them into action too soon.

Coach John Bobo says: "I'm not painting a very good picture, but . . . anyone who's been around this program knows it's going to be tough." ■

SCOUTING THE BIG WEST

Ascending: Utah State and New Mexico State. These schools share more than a nickname. Utah State wants to position itself so that when the Western Athletic Conference looks to expand, it will head for the mountains of Logan. New Mexico State continues to make recruiting inroads in talent-rich Texas.

Descending: San Jose State, but not by much. Long Beach State (R.I.P., 1991) and Cal State Fullerton (R.I.P., 1992) couldn't survive in the financially ravaged California State University system, and the Spartans have taken some monetary hits, too.

Nightmare schedule: Louisiana Tech. The Bulldogs' first three games are at Tennessee, South Carolina and defending national champion Alabama. Later, they have to travel to East Carolina. And this is supposed to be a rebuilding year.

Dream schedule: Nevada. The Wolf Pack continues to stick to its Division I-AA roots with home games against Boise State, Texas Southern and Weber State. This is what happens when the football coach also is the athletic director.

Best matchup of the year: Nevada at Utah State, October 16. Better check the light bulbs in the Romney Stadium scoreboard for this one. The Wolf Pack beat the Aggies, 48-47, last season, and both offenses are even better this year.

Worst matchup of the year: Arkansas State at Florida, September 4. What a way for John Bobo to make his head-coaching debut. Remember, Coach, you *wanted* this job.

Shocker of the year: New Mexico State will beat Nevada on November 13. The Aggies spoiled San Jose State's title hopes with a 34-24 victory in the 1992 season finale. Luckily for the Wolf Pack, this game won't count in the Big West standings because of the league's scheduling idiosyncrasies.

Bowl bound: Utah State. The Aggies haven't played in a bowl game since losing to Baylor, 24-9, in the 1961 Gotham Bowl at the Polo Grounds in New York City. Ironically, John Ralston was Utah State's head coach at the time.

Biggest shoes to fill: Ryan Benjamin, RB, Pacific. It may take three or four players to replace Benjamin, who led the nation in all-purpose yardage and was the Big West's Offensive Player of the Year.

Most underrated player: Anthony Calvillo, QB, Utah State. He wasn't even a first- or second-team all-conference selection last season despite throwing for 2,494 yards and 16 touchdowns in only eight starts. Utah State will push Calvillo for the Heisman Trophy, but he'll have a hard

time getting on the All-Big West team.

Impact newcomers: Marcus Carter, WR, Southwestern Louisiana, Sr. (transfer/Louisiana State); Marcellus Christon, RB, Nevada, Jr. (JC); Dan Godfrey,

LB, San Jose State, Jr. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton); Corey Sears, DL, UNLV, Jr. (JC); Tyrone Trimble, DB, Utah State, Jr. (JC).

Coach of the year: Charlie Weatherbie, Utah State. Winning a conference title in only his second season as a head coach would warrant the honor.

Coach on the hot seat: Jim Strong, UNLV. Again. Rebels Athletic Director Jim Weaver tried to reassign Strong to the school's compliance department last winter but backed off when Strong threatened a lawsuit. Not exactly a ringing endorsement from your

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive line:
Utah State

Best offensive backfield:
San Jose State

Best backup quarterback:
Craig Wilhelm, Pacific

Best wide receivers:
Nevada

Best clutch receiver:
Bryan Reeves, Nevada

Best defensive line:
UNLV

Best -hitting defensive lineman:
Erik Simien, UNLV

Best linebackers:
Utah State

Best -hitting linebacker:
Jermaine Younger, Utah State

Best secondary:
Utah State

Best -hitting defensive back:
Orlanda Thomas, Southwestern La.

Best kicking game:
San Jose State

Best kick-coverage units:
Nevada

Best coaching staff:
Nevada

Best coach:
Jim Hess, New Mexico State

Best Heisman candidate:
LeShon Johnson, TB, N. Illinois

Best pro prospect:
Jermaine Younger, LB, Utah State

RETURNING LEADERS

Rushing: Nathan DuPree, San Jose State, 112.6 yds./game (237 att., 1,239 yds., 11 TDs, 5.2 avg.).

Passing efficiency: Tony Calvillo, Utah State, 123.7 rating pts. (360 att., 201 comp., 2,494 yds., 16 TDs).

Total offense: Jeff Garcia, San Jose State, 240.1 yds./game (223 yds. rushing, 2,418 yds. passing, 2,641 total yds.).

Receiving: Bryan Reeves, Nevada, 7.4 rec./game (81 rec., 1,114 yds., 10 TDs, 13.8 avg.).

Scoring: Bryan Reeves, Nevada, 7.1 pts./game (13 TDs, 0 PATs, 0 FGs, 78 pts.).

Punting: Lee Myhre, San Jose State, 42.9 avg. (54 punts, 2,316 yds.).

Punt returns: Henry Bailey, UNLV, 14.6 avg. (15 att., 219 yds., 1 TD).

Kickoff returns: Chris Singleton, Nevada, 29.2 avg. (17 att., 497 yds., 0 TDs).

Field goals: Joe Nedney, San Jose State, 1.3 FG/game (14/19 FGs, 74%).

Interceptions: Donald Toomer, Utah State, .55 int./game (6 int., 21 yds., 0 TDs).



Elite pass catcher: Nevada's Bryan Reeves is one of the best receivers on the West Coast.

administration.

Best bets: Opponents will underestimate 5-foot-7, 160-pound Utah State receiver Duane Williams, one of the smallest Division I players in the country. He put up big numbers, however, at Mt. San Antonio College, where he set a school record with 14 career touchdown catches. . . . Northern Illinois tailback LeShon Johnson will lead the Big West in rushing. . . . Boise State and North Texas will join the league in 1995.

Odds and ends: Nevada is gunning for its fourth straight conference championship in 1993. The Wolf Pack won Big Sky titles in 1990 and '91 and the Big West crown last season. . . . New Mexico State Coach Jim Hess interviewed for jobs at Boise State, Colorado State and San Jose State last winter but says he never considered leaving. "I felt I was in a better situation here," he said. "I've poured my heart and soul into this for years and I'm finally starting to see some results." . . . Southwestern Louisiana Coach Nelson Stokley gave up his job as athletic director to devote all of his energy to football. . . . Ray Perkins is back in the National Football League after one season at Arkansas State. Perkins, whose only Indians team finished 2-9, is offensive coordinator for the New England Patriots. . . . Ron Turner left San Jose State after one season to become offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach for the Chicago Bears. . . . Former Arkansas and NFL quarterback Joe Ferguson is the quarterbacks coach at Louisiana Tech. . . . Three of Cal State Fullerton's best players in 1992—linebacker Dan Godfrey and offensive linemen John Cotti and Wally Bonnett—transferred to San Jose State after Fullerton suspended its program last December. . . . Northern Illinois receiver Vaurice Patterson and Florida State quarterback Charlie Ward are the nation's only current major college football/basketball starters. . . . Former Cal State Fullerton coach Gene Murphy is now the head coach at Fullerton Community College.

—MIKE DiGIOVANNA

MAC looks for respect via non-conference play

By DOUG ZALESKI

Muncie Evening Press

Many college football fans, especially those who live outside the Midwest, would be hard pressed to name even half of the 10 schools that constitute the Mid-American Conference. The league resides in the heart of Big Ten country, a situation that prevents much limelight from falling on MAC teams.

"People who know football have respect for what we do," said Paul Schudel, who is entering his ninth season as coach at Ball State. "Just casual observers of football, I'm not sure they have the respect you sometimes feel you deserve."

MAC coaches like Schudel are well aware of the built-in disadvantages of their jobs. That's why their games against non-conference opponents are so important. For example, Bowling Green State, the MAC champion the last two years, has won two straight bowl games, toppling San Jose State in the 1991 California Raisin Bowl and Nevada in the inaugural Las Vegas Bowl last year.

"Their success in the postseason has elevated the conference," said Western Michigan Coach Al Molde, who is entering his seventh season at the school. "The MAC generally plays well against non-league teams, and that has an important effect on the conference."

Although the MAC's record in non-league play last season was a rather unimpressive 9-14-3, some of those games were noteworthy. After Central Michigan stunned Michigan State, 20-3, in East Lansing in 1991, the Spartans vowed to avenge the loss in '92. But the Chippewas won again, this time by a 24-20 score.

Toledo went to Purdue and beat the Boilermakers, 33-29. Western Michigan played Texas Christian to a 17-17 tie in Fort Worth, Tex. Ball State was tied with Clemson in the fourth quarter at Death Valley before losing by two touchdowns.

Those kind of results, MAC coaches say, can't help but improve the perception of their league.

Schudel believes Bowling Green's bowl-game success, in particular, can be used as motivation for other MAC teams.

"You have to point to that and say, 'Are they that much better than you?'" he said.

1 CENTRAL MICH.

Coach: Herb Deromedi (105-49-10, 15 years).

1992 record: 5-6, MAC: 4-5/7th.

Key losses: Art Droski, C; Oscar Ford, CB; Marty Malcolm, OG; Mike Nettie, DT; Dennis Nicholl, P; Rick Plate, CB; Gary Rakan, LB; Lamar Sally, DT; Greg Sherwin, OT; Brad Umphrey, LB; Jason Wilkie, MG.

Starters returning: Offense (8): Jerremy Dunlap, TE, 6-3/236, Jr.; Darrell McCaul, T, 6-5/300, Sr.; Terrance McMillan, SE, 6-1/193, Soph.; Matt Nasally, G, 6-1/291, Jr.; Brian Pruitt, TB, 5-10/205, Jr.; D.J. Reid, FL, 5-10/175, Sr.; Tim Wojcik, FB, 6-1/220, Sr.; Joe Youngblood, QB, 6-0/186, Sr. Defense (4): Mike Kyler, LB, 6-2/230, Sr.; Boris

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. CENTRAL MICHIGAN
2. AKRON
3. TOLEDO
4. MIAMI OF OHIO
5. BALL STATE
6. BOWLING GREEN STATE
7. WESTERN MICHIGAN
8. KENT
9. OHIO UNIVERSITY
10. EASTERN MICHIGAN

Martysz, FS, 6-2/206, Jr.; Bryant Satterlee, LB, 6-2/240, Sr.; Darrell Stinson, SS, 6-2/215, Sr. Kickers (1): Chuck Selinger, K, 6-0/208, Sr. Other key returnees: Richard Barker, DB, Sr.; Randy Danison, DT, Jr.; Jude Fairbanks, LB, Jr.; Brock Gutierrez, C, Soph.; Eric Johnson, TB, Jr.; Chad Murphy, CB, Soph.; Chad Preston, MG, Jr.; Dustin Preston, DT, Jr.; Erik Timpf, QB, Jr.



Double threat: Akron quarterback Marcel Weems is a shifty runner and an underrated passer.

Top newcomers: None.

Schedule: Akron, Sept. 4; Ohio University, Sept. 11; at UNLV, Sept. 18; at Michigan State, Sept. 25; Ball State, Oct. 2; at Western Michigan, Oct. 9; Eastern Michigan, Oct. 16; at Kent, Oct. 23; at Toledo, Nov. 6; Bowling Green State, Nov. 13; at Miami of Ohio, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Chippewas.

Site: Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Outlook: The Chippewas' incredible streak of 27 consecutive non-losing seasons ended last year, but they won't be down for long. Their only real concern is the offensive line, but several excellent prospects are ready to step in.

Offensive strengths: Quarterback Joe Youngblood is a candidate for MAC player of the year, and he has a stable of quality receivers to work with. Brian Pruitt is one of the best running backs in the league.

Offensive weaknesses: The line needs to come together quickly in order for Youngblood and Co. to succeed. The fullback is a big part of the Chippewas' offensive scheme, and they need to find some depth at that position.

Defensive strengths: A trio of talented safeties solidify the middle on pass defense. Mike Kyler is one of the league's best linebackers.

Defensive weaknesses: The down linemen will be new and depth is a major concern. The loss of Oscar Ford and Rick Plate leaves gaping holes at both cornerback spots.

Special teams: Chuck Selinger has hit 30 of 50 field-goal attempts in his career. The big worry is punting, a position where neither candidate has any college experience.

Key to success: The offensive line must protect Youngblood to give him a chance to use his skills.

Sure sign of trouble: If Youngblood gets hurt. His backup, Erik Timpf, has thrown two passes in college.

Coach Herb Deromedi says: "If Joe (Youngblood) has a similar season to last year, it would serve our football team well. He had a great season, and we need some other people to step their games up and make things happen."

2 AKRON

Coach: Gerry Faust (37-37-3, 7 years; 67-63-4 overall, 12 years).

1992 record: 7-3-1, MAC: 5-3/T3rd.

Key losses: Daron Alcorn, K/P; Lavern Bass, WR; Jerry Best, LB; Vic Green, SS; Bruce Keys, LB; Chris Owens, FS; Chris Sutyak, OT.

Starters returning: Offense (10): Eric Agosti, C, 6-2/250, Jr.; Kenny Chapman, WR, 6-2/190, Sr.; Darrien Gouch, RB, 5-9/175, Jr.; Brett Hrivnak, TE, 6-3/255, Sr.; Petu Ieli, FB, 6-1/230, Jr.; Mike Lyons, G, 6-5/260, Jr.; Matt Rose, T, 6-4/300, Jr.; J.J. Schidemantle, G, 6-3/280, Sr.; Ramont Small, RB, 5-11/195, Jr.; Marcel Weems, QB, 6-2/210, Sr. Defense (7): Wayne Anderson, E, 5-11/270, Sr.; Ted Draper, CB, 5-8/160, Jr.; Phil Dunn, LB, 6-0/230, Jr.; Chris Haskins, E, 6-3/300, Sr.; Jeff Junko, LB, 6-3/200, Jr.; Eugene Phillips, NG, 6-3/270, Sr.; Wayne Wade, CB, 6-1/185, Sr. Kickers: None.

Continued

TSN

PRESEASON ALL-MID-AMERICAN TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Joe
Youngblood,
QB, Central Michigan

DEFENSE



Maurice
Bulls,
E, Toledo

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

Mike Blair, RB, Ball State

DEFENSE:

Shane Foster, DB, Bowling Green State

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	TOM BOYD, Toledo	6-1/195	Jr.
WR	TERRANCE McMILLAN, Central Michigan	6-1/193	Soph.
TE	BRAD LONG, Bowling Green State	6-5/240	Sr.
T	JOE WYSE, Bowling Green State	6-5/300	Sr.
T	RYAN CREED, Kent	6-5/238	Sr.
C	CAL BOWERS, Bowling Green State	6-1/275	Soph.
G	JEFF CHABOT, Miami of Ohio	6-3/285	Jr.
G	CHRIS BRENNER, Miami of Ohio	6-3/280	Sr.
QB	JOE YOUNGBLOOD, Central Michigan	6-0/186	Sr.
RB	CASEY McBETH, Toledo	5-10/204	Sr.
RB	DELAND McCULLOUGH, Miami of Ohio	5-11/180	Soph.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	MAURICE BULLS, Toledo	6-3/257	Sr.
DL	TERRY JACKSON, Toledo	6-2/260	Sr.
DL	BOB DUDLEY, Bowling Green State	5-6/280	Sr.
LB	MIKE KYLER, Central Michigan	6-2/230	Sr.
LB	RICH YURKIEWICZ, Kent	6-2/205	Jr.
LB	PHIL DUNN, Akron	6-0/230	Jr.
LB	PETER TUFFO, Western Michigan	6-0/243	Jr.
DB	STEVE HAWKINS, Western Michigan	6-5/208	Sr.
DB	RICHARD PALMER, Eastern Michigan	6-0/185	Sr.
DB	AL BAKER, Toledo	6-0/190	Sr.
DB	COPATRIC DARTIS, Ball State	5-10/172	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	CHAD SEITZ, Miami of Ohio	5-7/150	Soph.
P	GARY LAYTON, Miami of Ohio	6-1/206	Jr.
AP	CRAIG THOMPSON, Eastern Michigan	5-6/162	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	CHRIS JENKINS, Ohio University	5-9/170	Sr.
WR	BRIAN OLIVER, Ball State	6-3/189	Jr.
TE	STEVE KOPROSKI, Kent	5-11/225	Sr.
T	CHADD DEHN, Toledo	6-2/288	Jr.
T	DARREN REESE, Ohio University	6-4/280	Sr.
C	PETE STONE, Toledo	6-1/250	Soph.
G	MIKE LYONS, Akron	6-5/260	Jr.
G	ANDY BERRY, Ball State	6-3/266	Jr.
QB	MARCEL WEEMS, Akron	6-2/210	Sr.
RB	TIM CURTIS, Ohio University	5-9/205	Sr.
RB	BRIAN PRUITT, Central Michigan	5-10/205	Jr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	WALTER CAMPBELL, Eastern Michigan	6-3/268	Sr.
DL	WAYNE ANDERSON, Akron	5-11/270	Sr.
DL	CHRIS ALLEN, Miami of Ohio	6-0/230	Sr.
DL	BRADY RENNERS, Kent	6-1/224	Sr.
LB	SEAN PATTERSON, Kent	6-0/215	Sr.
LB	REESE McCASKILL, Eastern Michigan	6-3/234	Soph.
LB	BRYANT SATTERLEE, Central Michigan	6-2/240	Sr.
DB	WAYNE WADE, Akron	6-1/185	Sr.
DB	MALAWI HILLS, Ball State	6-0/194	Sr.
DB	PIERRE HIXON, Western Michigan	5-11/186	Sr.
DB	VANCE BENTON, Kent	5-11/176	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	BRIAN LEAVER, Bowling Green State	5-5/160	Jr.
P	BYRON HAMMONS, Western Michigan	6-1/185	Jr.

Other key returnees: Lance Cash, FS, Jr.; Morris Cooley, NG, Jr.; Pete Habib, DB, Jr.; Marlon Jacobs, RB, Soph. (RS/knee).

Top newcomers: Erik Branch, OL, Fr. (RS); De-Shawn Brown, RB, Soph. (Prop 48); Lamont Brown, DL, Fr.; Sam Carter, DL, Fr. (RS); Marc Daniels, FB, Soph. (Prop 48); Shane Marsicano, K, Fr.; Matt Petty, C, Fr. (RS); Eric Rucker, RB, Fr.; John Thomas, OT, Fr. (RS); Gerald Thompson, RB, Fr.

Schedule: At Central Michigan, Sept. 2; Kent, Sept. 11; at Western Michigan, Sept. 18; at Army, Oct. 2; Miami of Ohio, Oct. 9; at Bowling Green State, Oct. 16; at Temple, Oct. 23; at Ohio University, Oct. 30; Eastern Michigan, Nov. 6; Ball State, Nov. 13; Youngstown State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Zips.
Site: Akron, O.

Outlook: The Zips proved in their first season in the MAC that they have what it takes to compete in the league. In their second year, they might have what it takes to win it.

Offensive strengths: Start with quarterback Marcel Weems, a shifty runner and an underrated passer. Running back Darrien Gouch is a steady performer, and four starters return on the line.

Offensive weaknesses: Somebody must step forward to help wide receiver Kenny Chapman, who caught 36 passes last year.

Defensive strengths: Junior linebacker Phil Dunn paced the MAC with 201 tackles last season. Wayne Anderson, a three-year starter, gives credibility to the front line.

Defensive weaknesses: Who will replace safeties Chris Owens and Vic Green, who combined to make 13 interceptions and were the Zips' third- and fourth-leading tacklers last season? Finding help for Dunn at linebacker could be another problem.

Special teams: The Zips have high hopes for freshman Shane Marsicano, who will be trying to replace star punter/place-kicker Daron Alcorn.



Strong stock: Toledo will rebuild its defense around end Maurice Bulls.

Keys to success: The offensive line must give Weems time and the new linebackers and safeties must play well.

Sure sign of trouble: If the defense can't stop other teams.

Coach Gerry Faust says: "We have only scratched the surface in this offense, even though we had some success with its execution the past two seasons."

3 TOLEDO

Coach: Gary Pinkel (13-8-1, 2 years).

1992 record: 8-3. MAC: 5-3/T3rd.

Key losses: Brian Borders, P; Chris Boykin, DT; Mark Brewster, LB; Marcus Goodwin, WR; Rusty Hanna, K; Jason Kelley, CB; Andy McCollum, OG; Kevin Meger, QB; Darrell Mossburg, LB; Kollin Rice, OT; Dan Williams, DE.

Starters returning: Offense (7): Tom Boyd, WR, 6-1/195, Jr.; Chadd Dehn, T, 6-2/288, Jr.; Casey McBeth, TB, 5-10/204, Sr.; Steve Rosi, TE, 6-3/226, Soph.; Pete Stone, C, 6-1/250, Soph.; Reggie Walls, FB, 5-11/229, Sr.; Charlie Webb, G, 6-2/279, Jr. **Defense (6):** Al Baker, FS, 6-0/190, Sr.; Chad Brown, CB, 5-9/172, Sr.; Maurice Bulls, E, 6-3/257, Sr.; John Formentin, LB, 6-4/220, Sr.; Terry Jackson, T, 6-2/260, Sr.; Kevin McKinney, SS, 6-0/193, Jr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returnees: Ernie Baskin, DE, Soph.; Jamal Belt, CB, Soph.; Scott Brunswick, SE, Soph.; Mike Capen, QB, Sr.; Jim Gant, LB, Sr.; Steve Hamilton, OT, Sr.; Tim Kubiak, QB, Soph.; Kevin Montgomery, OT, Soph.; Troy Parker, TB, Sr.; Bo Reichart, DE, Jr.; Aristotle Wilson, TB, Soph.

Top newcomers: Ty Grude, P, Fr.; Ryan Huzjak, QB, Fr. (RS); Chris Jaquillard, FB, Soph. (Prop 48); Jamie Johnson, LB, Fr.; Terrence Mays, RB, Jr. (transfer/Kansas); Wasean Tait, TB, Fr.; Dan Whetsel, OL, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: At Indiana, Sept. 4; Southern Illinois, Sept. 18; Ohio University, Sept. 25; at Bowling Green State, Oct. 2; at Ball State, Oct. 9; Miami of Ohio, Oct. 16; Cincinnati, Oct. 23; at Kent, Oct. 30;

Central Michigan, Nov. 6; at Western Michigan, Nov. 13; Eastern Michigan, Nov. 19.
Nickname: Rockets.
Site: Toledo, O.

Outlook: Now in his third season, Coach Gary Pinkel has the Rockets rising. But with three-year starting quarterback Kevin Meger gone, this team likely will have to rely on its running game to score points and a quality defense to keep scores low.

Offensive strengths: Casey McBeth enters the '93 season recognized as the best running back in the MAC. He rushed for 1,037 yards last year and should do just as well this fall behind an experienced line. Wide receiver Tom Boyd may be as skilled at his position as McBeth is at his.

Offensive weaknesses: Quarterback Meger's successor may not be known until the week before the season opens.

Defensive strengths: The line lost a great one in Dan Williams, but end Maurice Bulls and tackle Terry Jackson aren't bad people to rebuild around. Free safety Al Baker is a proven performer.

Defensive weaknesses: Middle linebacker is a question mark and the secondary needs to improve as a group.

Special teams: This could be a big problem spot. The Rockets are replacing both their place-kicker and punter and have no experienced players on hand.

Key to success: Finding a No. 1 quarterback. Whoever plays the position doesn't have to be a star, but he must be steady.

Sure sign of trouble: If the quarterback tries to be a hero. He doesn't have to be; he'll have plenty of support.

Coach Gary Pinkel says: "Our depth is improving, and depth generally initiates great competition. Competition, in turn, should make us better."

4 MIAMI OF OHIO

Coach: Randy Walker (17-13-3, 3 years).

1992 record: 6-4-1. MAC: 5-3/T3rd.

Key losses: Ron Carpenter, FS; Thad Fidler, DE; Mike Kreeger, OT; Curt McMillan, LB; James Patton, TE; Jeff Pegues, FL; Tom Poynton, FB; Mark Staten, DT; Shean Williams, CB.

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Cipriano Beredo, G, 6-3/262, Sr.; Chris Brenner, G, 6-3/280, Sr.; Jeff Chabot, T, 6-3/285, Jr.; Jim Clement, SE, 6-1/200, Sr.; Neil Dougherty, QB, 6-2/220, Jr.; Nick Frantz, C, 6-0/265, Sr.; Deland McCullough, TB, 5-11/180, Soph. **Defense (6):** Chris Allen, T, 6-0/230, Sr.; Bill Atha, T, 6-3/250, Jr.; Jason Phillips, LB, 6-1/225, Jr.; David Thomas, CB, 6-1/180, Jr.; Johnnie Williams, LB, 6-0/205, Soph.; David Wilson, SS, 6-0/185, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Gary Layton, P, 6-1/206, Jr.; Chad Seitz, K, 5-7/150, Soph.

Other key returnees: Lock Beachum, FB, Sr.; Gordon Benning, SE, Sr.; Brian Besse, TE, Sr.; Robert Blanton, LB, Sr.; Terry Carter, TB, Jr.; Marius Douglas, CB, Jr.; Chad Estes, OT, Jr.; Bobby Johnson, OT/OG, Jr.; Nick Kamberis, LB, Sr.; Harvey Kelley, FS, Jr.; Jason Michelson, DE, Sr.; Jeremy Patterson, FL, Jr.; Dwan Ward, DE, Soph. (RS).

Top newcomers: Terry Cole, LB, Soph. (Prop 48); Matt Cravens, C, Fr. (RS); Jason Druso, RB/DB, Fr.; Alonzo Edwards, WR, Fr.; Ty King, TB, Fr. (RS); Nathan Klaiber, FB, Fr. (RS); C.J. McDavid, WR, Fr.; Patrice Morgan, DE, Fr.; Wince Morris, QB, Fr. (RS); Ernest Perry, CB, Fr. (RS); Chris Rhodes, DE, Fr. (RS); Sam Ricketts, QB, Fr.; LaMark Woolfolk, DB, Fr.

Schedule: At Western Michigan, Sept. 4; Southwestern Louisiana, Sept. 11; at Cincinnati, Sept. 18; Eastern Michigan, Oct. 2; at Akron, Oct. 9; at Toledo, Oct. 16; Ohio University, Oct. 23; Bowling



Veteran QB: Ball State's Mike Neu has nearly three years of starting experience.

Green State, Oct. 30; at Ball State, Nov. 6; at Kent, Nov. 13; Central Michigan, Nov. 20.
Nickname: Redskins.
Site: Oxford, O.

Outlook: The Redskins' talent level has improved over the last few seasons, and so has their standing in the league. They've finished tied for third the last two seasons and should be competitive again if they get consistent play at quarterback.

Offensive strengths: Deland McCullough was the nation's top freshman running back (1,026 yards) and the MAC Freshman of the Year. Jeff Chabot and Chris Brenner lead a talented line that has four starters back. Jeremy Patterson is a quality receiver.

Offensive weaknesses: Neil Dougherty completed 51 percent of his passes last season but threw more interceptions than touchdown passes. He may be challenged for the starting quarterback job.

Defensive strengths: Tackles Chris Allen and Bill Atha and end Jason Michelson are athletic linemen. Cornerback David Thomas is a sure tackler.

Defensive weaknesses: Johnnie Williams is a good, young linebacker, but the supporting cast is suspect.

Special teams: The kicking game is strong with Gary Layton, who finished second in the MAC with a 41.7-yard punting average, and Chad Seitz, who connected on 14 of 18 field-goal tries.

Key to success: The experienced offensive line must play to its potential.

Sure sign of trouble: If Dougherty, assuming he's the starter, can't even repeat his uneven performance of a year ago.

Coach Randy Walker says: "I think we are improved in our overall skill level, athleticism and team strength and speed. But I

think it will be interesting to see how we emerge with all of our personnel changes."

5 BALL STATE

Coach: Paul Schudel (47-40-2, 8 years).

1992 record: 5-6. MAC: 5-4/6th.

Key losses: Blaine Bishop, CB; Bryant Branigan, DT; Tim Christian, OT; Corey Croom, TB; Henry Hall, DE; Troy Hoffer, S; Damon Keller, P; Carl Kendrick, NG; Dan Mawhor, TE; Mark Parris, LB; Don Stonefield, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Andy Berry, G, 6-3/266, Jr.; Sonny Labhart, FB, 6-1/224, Jr.; Jose Munoz, T, 6-4/286, Sr.; Mike Neu, QB, 6-5/212, Sr.; Brian Oliver, WR, 6-3/189, Jr.; Lance Wildoner, G, 6-4/290, Sr. **Defense (4):** Copatric Dartis, CB, 5-10/172, Sr.; Malawi Hills, S, 6-0/194, Sr.; Scott Jordan, E, 6-1/216, Jr.; Scott Kruger, T, 6-2/232, Jr. **Kickers (1):** Matt Swart, K, 5-10/161, Soph.

Other key returnees: Joe Coffman, LB, Sr.; Ted Freeman, TE/FB, Soph.; Jacob Goldwire, CB, Jr.; Juan Gorman, WR, Sr.; Paxton Griffin, CB, Sr.; Jack Haworth, DE, Jr.; Mike McClain, OT, Sr.; Erin McCray, FL, Sr.; Tony Nibbs, TB, Jr.; Kyle Robinson, SE, Soph.

Top newcomers: Mike Blair, RB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Syracuse, Sept. 4; Illinois State, Sept. 11; at Ohio University, Sept. 18; at Central Michigan, Oct. 2; Toledo, Oct. 9; at Cincinnati, Oct. 16; Bowling Green State, Oct. 23; at Eastern Michigan, Oct. 30; Miami of Ohio, Nov. 6; at Akron, Nov. 13; Kent, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Cardinals.
Site: Muncie, Ind.

Outlook: The Cardinals may struggle to achieve an upper-division finish. They are practically starting over defensively, both in personnel and in philosophy. How well that comes together will have a huge bearing on any success they have.

Offensive strengths: Quarterback Mike Neu has nearly three years of starting experience. Brian Oliver is a budding talent at wide receiver.

Offensive weaknesses: The line's inconsistent play dragged the Cardinals down last season and could do so again, crippling the running game.

Defensive strengths: The secondary, led by cornerback Copatric Dartis and safety Malawi Hills, is experienced and loaded with talent.

Defensive weaknesses: The Cardinals want a more aggressive line, but they'll have to do it with inexperienced players at three of the four down positions. All of the linebackers are unproven.

Special teams: Place-kicker Matt Swart was acceptable last year (9 of 17 field goals as a freshman), but he needs to step it up. The Cardinals led the league in punt coverage.

Key to success: With quite a few inexperienced players on defense, Ball State's offense must perform at a level it hasn't exhibited since 1989.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Cardinals can't run the ball. They are trying to replace a two-time 1,000-yard rusher (Corey Croom) with junior Tony Nibbs (34 career carries) and redshirt freshman Mike Blair.

Coach Paul Schudel says: "We lost a lot of veteran players on defense and some quality athletes on offense, but we have a good group of younger players who have waited for their turn and are ready to see some playing time."

Continued

6 BOWLING GREEN

Coach: Gary Blackney (21-3, 2 years).

1992 record: 10-2 (beat Nevada in Las Vegas Bowl). **MAC:** 8-0/1st.

Key losses: Joe Bair, S (career ended by back injury); Dave Bielinski, S; Carlos Brooks, CB; Ken Burruss, CB; Dave Hankins, SE; Artie Mangham, LB; Kevin O'Brien, LB; Jeff Rottinghaus, DT; Leroy Smith, FB; Mark Szlachcic, FL; Erik White, QB. **Starters returning:** **Offense (7):** Cal Bowers, C, 6-1/275, Soph.; Matt Foley, G, 6-1/265, Sr.; Norman Hammoud, G, 6-4/290, Jr.; Zeb Jackson, TB, 6-0/190, Sr.; Brad Long, TE, 6-5/240, Sr.; Jason Peters, T, 6-5/285, Jr.; Joe Wyse, T, 6-5/300, Sr. **Defense (4):** Bob Dudley, T, 6-5/280, Sr.; Clint Frazier, NG, 6-3/250, Sr.; Akili Hutchinson, LB, 6-2/200, Soph.; Vince Palko, LB, 6-2/220, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Rob Donahue, P, 6-2/200, Jr.; Brian Leaver, K, 5-5/160, Jr.

Other key returnees: Darius Card, FB, Soph.; Curtis Collins, DE, Jr.; Randy Hecklinski, QB, Jr.; Ryan Henry, QB, Soph.; George Johnson, CB, Jr.; Ramier Martin, FL, Jr.; Ronnie Redd, SE, Jr.; Steve Rodriguez, FS, Soph.; Darnell Staten, CB, Sr.; Trevor Stover, LB, Soph.; Jason Woullard, LB, Soph.

Top newcomers: Mark Dunaway, QB, Fr. (RS); Shane Foster, DB, Jr. (JC); Shawn Foster, DB, Jr. (JC); Steve Hartley, SS, Fr. (RS); Derek Kidwell, QB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Virginia Tech, Sept. 4; Cincinnati, Sept. 11; at Navy, Sept. 25; Toledo, Oct. 2; at Ohio University, Oct. 9; Akron, Oct. 16; at Ball State, Oct. 23; at Miami of Ohio, Oct. 30; Kent, Nov. 6; at Central Michigan, Nov. 13; Western Michigan, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Falcons.

Site: Bowling Green, O.

Outlook: The Falcons haven't lost a league game since 1990, but they almost certainly will this year. While the cupboard isn't exactly bare, this isn't the same team that won back-to-back MAC titles. To contend in '93, the Falcons need to find a quarterback in a hurry.

Offensive strengths: Whoever plays quarterback will be protected by the league's best offensive line, led by 300-pound senior Joe Wyse. Tailback Zeb Jackson (730 yards) supplies a running threat.

Offensive weaknesses: Sophomore Ryan Henry gets first crack at the quarterback job vacated by Erik White, but Henry threw just 18 passes last year. The other contenders—Randy Hecklinski, Mark Dunaway and Derek Kidwell—have yet to play in a college game.

Defensive strengths: The line, anchored by tackle Bob Dudley, and the inside linebackers, headed by Vince Palko, are solid.

Defensive weaknesses: Who will defend the pass? The Falcons graduated three starters in their secondary, and the fourth, Joe Bair, had his career ended prematurely by a back injury suffered in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Special teams: The goal of the punting game will be to create better field position. Brian Leaver, who was eight for nine on field goals and 33 for 35 on extra points, is a solid place-kicker.

Key to success: The running game has to be clicking on all cylinders, especially with a new quarterback.

Sure sign of trouble: If the quarterback can't run the offense.

Coach Gary Blackney says: "We're in a situation where we still have all the intangibles that it takes to win. Many members of this year's squad have learned the type of effort and commitment it takes to be a champion from the squads the last two seasons."



Ground force: Tailback Zeb Jackson gives Bowling Green a running threat.

7 WESTERN MICH.

Coach: Al Molde (38-27-1, 6 years; 144-84-7 overall, 22 years).

1992 record: 7-3-1. **MAC:** 6-3/2nd.

Key losses: Jay Barresi, K; Kurt Chrencik, P; Michael Coleman, TE; Dave Cutlip, DE; Paul Davis, CB; Larry Featherstone, DT; Scott Fleming, OT; Paul Hutchins, OT; Ulric King, SE; Carl Lopez, LB; Jeff Lujan, LB; John Morton, FL; Tim Osborne, SS; Mark Ricks, CB; Al Rivet, OG; Brad Tayles, QB; Dave VanDale, OG.

Starters returning: **Offense (3):** Dave Madsen, FB, 6-1/197, Jr.; Tom Nutten, C, 6-5/289, Jr.; Jim Vaccaro, TB, 5-8/185, Soph. **Defense (4):** Steve Hawkins, FS, 6-5/208, Sr.; Dion Powell, T, 6-2/265, Soph.; Tony Tiefenbach, E, 6-3/233, Jr.; Peter Tuffo, LB, 6-0/243, Jr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returnees: Elan Banks, FL, Jr.; Jason Bidde, OG, Sr.; Rufus Harris, LB, Jr.; Pierre Hixon, CB, Sr.; Kevin Knope, K, Soph.; Dean Polce, SS, Soph.; Willis Porter, LB, Soph.; Jeff Reynolds, CB, Sr.; Andrew Schorffaar, QB, Jr.; Bronson Trebbi, TE, Jr.; Andre Wallace, FL, Jr.

Top newcomers: Eric Boersma, DE, Fr. (RS); Travis Butth, DT, Fr. (RS); Byron Hammons, P, Jr. (JC); Pat Jackson, DE, Fr. (RS); Jay McDonagh, QB, Soph. (RS); Bob Mendoza, OT, Jr. (JC); Nate Palmer, DT, Fr. (RS); Jim Pappas, OG, Jr. (transfer/Wayne State); Jon Pryor, LB, Fr. (RS); Chris Rawson, DT, Fr. (RS); Eric Sain, FB, Soph. (transfer/Illinois); Marcus Wagstaff, CB, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Miami of Ohio, Sept. 2; at Purdue, Sept. 11; Akron, Sept. 18; Youngstown State, Sept. 25; at Kent, Oct. 2; Central Michigan, Oct. 9; at Eastern Michigan, Oct. 23; at Army, Oct. 30; at Ohio University, Nov. 6; Toledo, Nov. 13; at Bowling Green State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Broncos.

Site: Kalamazoo, Mich.

Outlook: A veteran defense should keep the Broncos in most games, but they had better get used to a lot of new faces, especially on offense. With four of their last five games on the road, they need a good start.

Offensive strengths: Tailback Jim Vaccaro gained 893 yards and scored six touchdowns as a freshman last year. His emergence has allowed the Broncos to move Andre Wallace (1,167 career rushing yards) to flanker.

Offensive weaknesses: The line lost four starters, but the biggest loss is that of ca-

reer passing leader Brad Tayles. His replacement will be either a junior with limited experience or a redshirt sophomore.

Defensive strengths: The Broncos' two leading tacklers, linebacker Peter Tuffo and free safety Steve Hawkins, both return. Hawkins and Pierre Hixon were key parts of a secondary that allowed the fewest touchdown passes in the MAC in 1992.

Defensive weaknesses: With six redshirt freshmen pushing for starting jobs, the defense will be inexperienced.

Special teams: Byron Hammons, who was redshirted last year, was an all-conference junior college punter in 1991. Kevin Knope replaces four-year place-kicker Jay Barresi. Elan Banks, one of the MAC's best kickoff-return men the last two years, will handle punts as well this season.

Key to success: The offense must play well despite all the newcomers.

Sure sign of trouble: If the offense gets beat up in the first three games.

Coach Al Molde says: "I really feel that the team has considerable talent defensively. There are questions on offense, but the strength of our team is on defense."

8 KENT

Coach: Pete Cordelli (3-19, 2 years).

1992 record: 2-9. **MAC:** 2-7/8th.

Key losses: Reggie Cook, TB; Kevin Harris, CB; John Lorentz, C; Jimmie Woody, SE.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Ryan Creed, T, 6-5/238, Sr.; Brian Dusho, FL, 5-11/175, Sr.; Ray Forsythe, T, 6-2/304, Jr.; Steve Koproksi, TE, 5-11/225, Sr.; Jay McNeil, G, 6-3/250, Jr.; Troy Robinson, FB, 5-9/225, Sr.; Kevin Shuman, QB, 6-1/180, Jr.; Rodney West, G, 6-5/280, Sr. **Defense (10):** Brian Allen, SS, 6-1/176, Sr.; Vance Benton, CB, 5-11/176, Sr.; Matt Jenne, T, 6-3/250, Jr.; Morrey Norris, LB, 5-11/206, Jr.; Sean Patterson, LB, 6-0/215, Sr.; Brady Renner, E, 6-1/224, Sr.; Maurice Sumpter, T, 6-0/227, Sr.; Jeff Turner, E, 6-2/211, Sr.; Keith Younger, FS, 5-9/170, Sr.; Rich Yurkiewicz, LB, 6-2/205, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Robbie Butts, K, 5-8/174, Soph.; Ken Walter, P, 6-0/162, Soph.

Other key returnees: Les Carney, FL, Sr.; Berkeley Claggett, DB, Jr.; Mike Stenning, C, Jr. **Top newcomers:** Mike Acie, QB, Fr. (RS); Tony Britt, QB, Fr. (RS); Reggie Carter, TB, Fr. (RS); Dujuan Franklin, DB, Fr. (RS); Brian Hales, LB, Fr. (RS); Matt Harrison, DB, Fr. (RS); Raeshuan Jernigan, RB, Fr.; David Mathis, RB, Fr.; Otis Santiago, TE, Fr.; Don White, DL, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Kentucky, Sept. 4; at Akron, Sept. 11; at Hawaii, Sept. 18; Western Michigan, Oct. 2; at Eastern Michigan, Oct. 9; at Ohio University, Oct. 16; Central Michigan, Oct. 23; Toledo, Oct. 30; at Bowling Green State, Nov. 6; Miami of Ohio, Nov. 13; at Ball State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Golden Flashes.

Site: Kent, O.

Outlook: The Golden Flashes have a chance to make decent strides if they can avoid being physically beaten up in their first three games, all on the road.

Offensive strengths: Troy Robinson showed early last year that he's capable of becoming a quality running back. Senior tackle Ryan Creed is one of the MAC's top offensive linemen.

Offensive weaknesses: Despite Robinson's own early flashes, the Golden Flashes mustered only 114.5 rushing yards per game, worst in the MAC last year. Kevin Shuman completed only 44 percent of his passes and threw twice as many interceptions as touchdown passes.

Defensive strengths: Morrey Norris,

Sean Patterson and Rich Yurkiewicz form the league's best corps of linebackers. Safety Brian Allen was Kent's top tackler last season.

Defensive weaknesses: Ten returning starters would be a strength at most places, but at Kent you have to wonder. The Flashes managed just 13 sacks all season and allowed 190 rushing yards per game.

Special teams: Nothing special here. Kent ranked ninth in a 10-team league in net punting (32.9-yard net average) and used three place-kickers with little success.

Key to success: Consistent, respectable play on defense.

Sure sign of trouble: If Shuman struggles at quarterback again. The Golden Flashes have no chance of moving up if he's down.

Coach Pete Cordelli says: "Our offense has to come together and be more productive, especially in the running game."

9 OHIO UNIVERSITY

Coach: Tom Lichtenberg (4-27-2, 3 years; 22-41-3 overall, 6 years).

1992 record: 1-10. MAC: 1-7/T9th.

Key losses: Aubrey Bell, FB; Jason Carthen, DE; Dwayne Cox, LB; David Hoyng, P; Dale Leisenheimer, C; Troy Vespie, LB; Scott Zele, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Courtney Burton, FL, 5-7/150, Sr.; Andy Canter, T (will move to C), 6-5/285, Sr.; Tim Curtis, TB, 5-9/205, Sr.; Brian George, FB, 6-2/240, Sr.; Chris Jenkins, SE, 5-9/170, Sr.; Brian Jepson, TE, 6-2/230, Sr.; Darren Reese, T, 6-4/280, Sr.; D.R. Robinson, QB, 6-1/185, Sr. **Defense (8):** Troy Brandt, T, 6-3/255, Jr.; Matt Fitzgerald, LB, 6-3/225, Jr.; Jim Frenzer, T, 6-2/270, Sr.; Damiso Johnson, SS, 6-1/205, Jr.; Benny King, LB, 6-1/235, Soph.; Tim Norviel, FS, 6-3/190, Jr.; Tony Poole, CB, 5-9/175, Sr.; Ed Slay, E, 6-1/245, Jr. **Kickers (1):** Jeff Marchant, K, 5-9/175, Sr.

Other key returnees: Clayton Ballard, LB, Sr.; Jim Bizzell, DT, Sr.; Josh Butler, OT, Sr.; Mario Daniel, NG, Soph.; Matt DeWitt, OG, Soph. (RS); Tom Dubs, QB, Sr.; Marcus Gamblin, CB, Sr.; Matt Haynes, OG, Jr.; Scott Jude, OG, Sr.; Bubba Lichtenberg, QB, Jr.; Hank Ray, TB, Soph. (RS); Ron Rieder, DT, Soph. (RS); Shawn Smith, FS, Jr. (RS); Jabaar Thompson, LB, Jr.; Lakarlos Townsend, TB, Soph.; Bradley Wojick, P/QB, Sr.; Mike Young, DE, Sr.

Top newcomers: Jon Beier, P, Fr.; Christiaan Evans, OL/DL, Fr.; Chet Feldman, QB, Fr.; Casey Gayle, WR, Jr. (JC); Scott Roberts, K, Fr.; Scott Schneider, QB, Fr.; Sam Vink, QB, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: At North Carolina, Sept. 4; at Central Michigan, Sept. 11; Ball State, Sept. 18; at Toledo, Sept. 25; at Virginia, Oct. 2; Bowling Green State, Oct. 9; Kent, Oct. 16; at Miami of Ohio, Oct. 23; Akron, Oct. 30; Western Michigan, Nov. 6; at Eastern Michigan, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Bobcats.

Site: Athens, O.

Outlook: The Bobcats feel they've improved themselves with solid back-to-back recruiting years, but those players probably are too young to make much of an impact in 1993.

Offensive strengths: Tailback Tim Curtis, who enters his final season with 2,166 career yards, is fast and elusive. Lakarlos Townsend showed flashes as the backup last year. Tackle Darren Reese is a three-year starter.

Offensive weaknesses: The quarterback position was a revolving door last season, and no fewer than three candidates will bid for the starting job this year.

Defensive strengths: The Bobcats were the league's stingiest team against the pass (136.9 yards per game) a year ago. The sec-



Deadly Eagle: Eastern Michigan flanker Craig Thompson is a threat to score any time he touches a football.

ondary, headed by Tony Poole and Damiso Johnson, should be solid.

Defensive weaknesses: Of course, one reason opponents threw for so few yards against Ohio was because running the ball was so easy—the Bobcats allowed a league-worst 220.7 rushing yards per game. End Jason Carthen and inside linebacker Scott Zele will be hard to replace.

Special teams: Place-kicker Jeff Marchant is steady, but the Bobcats are looking for a new punter. Courtney Burton was the league's leading kickoff returner and No. 2 punt returner last year.

Key to success: Better quarterback play.

Sure sign of trouble: If quality replacements can't be found for Carthen and Zele.

Coach Tom Lichtenberg says: "I'm convinced we have bigger, better and faster players than at any time since I've been here, but we haven't yet converted that to points on the scoreboard and a winning record."

10 EASTERN MICH.

Coach: Ron Cooper (first year as head coach).

1992 record: 1-10. MAC: 1-7/T9th.

Key losses: Bill Adam, K; Mickey McBride, DT; Cazzie Nelson, CB; Bobby Pandelidis, OG; Kwesi Ramsey, QB; Sean Shoda, DT; Bryan Wauldron, SE.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Kevin Beverly, C, 6-2/280, Jr.; Matt Gillette, T, 6-4/270, Jr.; Mike Graff, FB, 5-10/214, Sr.; Ed Hickman, T, 6-4/312, Sr.; Tony Johnson, G, 6-3/261, Sr.; Craig Thompson, FL, 5-6/162, Sr.; Ryan Wheatley, TE, 6-2/245, Soph.; Stephen Whitfield, TB, 5-11/208, Jr. **Defense (6):** Walter Campbell, E, 6-3/268, Sr.; Reese McCaskill, LB, 6-3/234, Soph.; Richard Palmer, CB, 6-0/185, Sr.; Mike Parkes, LB, 6-2/231, Sr.; Ron Rice, FS, 6-1/207, Jr.; Kevin Tooson, LB, 6-0/210, Soph. **Kickers (1):** Brad Horton, P, 6-4/243, Sr.

Other key returnees: Steve Clay, SE, Soph.; Jay Gardziola, K/P, Soph.; Eddie Nwagbaraocha, FB, Sr.; Dennis Parker, DE, Jr.; Sean Williams, DT, Sr. **Top newcomers:** Michael Armour, QB, Soph. (JC); Yusef Dibbles, LB, Jr. (JC); Dayna Hall, CB, Jr. (JC); LaShante Parker, RB, Jr. (JC); Maurice Reed, CB, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: At West Virginia, Sept. 4; Temple, Sept. 9; Western Illinois, Sept. 18; at Miami of Ohio, Oct. 2;

Kent, Oct. 9; at Central Michigan, Oct. 16; Western Michigan, Oct. 23; Ball State, Oct. 30; at Akron, Nov. 6; Ohio University, Nov. 13; at Toledo, Nov. 19.

Nickname: Eagles.

Site: Ypsilanti, Mich.

Outlook: First-year Coach Ron Cooper, a former Notre Dame assistant, is enthusiastic about his new job. He'd better be, because he has a tremendous rebuilding job staring him in the face.

Offensive strengths: Four starting linemen are back, and flanker Craig Thompson is a threat to score any time he touches a football.

Offensive weaknesses: Quarterback. Last year's starter, Kwesi Ramsey, was suspended indefinitely in the spring for lack of academic progress. His replacement can do no worse: Ramsey was the lowest-rated starting quarterback in the conference.

Defensive strengths: Linebacker Reese McCaskill led the Eagles last year with 133 tackles, which ranked in the top 15 nationally. End Walter Campbell and cornerback Richard Palmer are among the best in the league at their positions.

Defensive weaknesses: Campbell has limited help on the line and the secondary has question marks.

Special teams: Thompson ranked high in the MAC in three categories: punt returns (first), kickoff returns (second) and all-purpose yardage (fifth). Place-kicker Jay Gardziola has limited experience, and the punting job is up in the air.

Key to success: Any success the Eagles have will be limited. They just can't get down on themselves if they receive a few beatings early in the season.

Sure sign of trouble: If Cooper plays musical chairs at quarterback.

Coach Ron Cooper says: "I liked the way we looked physically (last winter). But when we got on the field for the first time in spring drills, I knew we had some problems to address." ■

SCOUTING THE MID-AMERICAN

Ascending: Miami of Ohio. After going 2-18-2 in 1988 and '89, the Redskins brought in Randy Walker to turn things around. He has. The Redskins are 17-13-3 since Walker's arrival.

Descending: Ball State. The proof is in the pudding: After winning the MAC championship in 1989, the Cardinals tied for third in '90, tied for fifth in '91 and finished sixth in '92.

Nightmare schedule: Ohio University. The Bobcats play two ACC teams (North Carolina and Virginia) and two MAC powers (Central Michigan and Toledo) on the road in their first five games.

Dream schedule: Toledo. The Rockets play six games at home, including league favorite Central Michigan. The only MAC team the Rockets don't play is Akron, a team expected to contend for the conference crown.

Best matchup of the year: Central Michigan at Toledo, November 6. The record between these teams over the last six years is 2-2-2, and this year's game could decide the MAC title.

Worst matchup of the year: Eastern Michigan at Central Michigan, October 16. Although the teams have played relatively close games the last few years, Eastern won't be close to Central this season.

Shocker of the year: Kent over Akron on September 11. The Golden Flashes put the whammy on the Zips last year by a score of 20-16. Stay tuned for the double whammy.

Bowl bound: One team only. The MAC champion gets an automatic bid to the Las Vegas Bowl to play the Big West Conference champion.

Biggest shoes to fill: Bowling Green State quarterback Erik White's. White led the Falcons to two straight MAC titles and two bowl wins, but the contenders to succeed him are inexperienced.

Most underrated player: Phil Dunn, LB, Akron. He didn't get a single vote from the coaches in balloting for the All-MAC teams despite leading the league in tackles.

Impact newcomers: Mike Blair, RB, Ball State, Fr. (RS); Shane Foster, DB, Bowling Green, Jr. (JC); Shawn Foster, DB, Bowling Green, Soph. (JC); Jamie Johnson, LB, Toledo, Fr.; Shane Marsicano, PK, Akron, Fr.; Terrence Mays, RB, Toledo, Jr. (transfer/Kansas); LaShante Parker, RB, Eastern Michigan, Jr. (JC).

Coach of the year: Gary Pinkel, Toledo. Look for the Rockets to make a solid run at the MAC championship.

Coach on the hot seat: Ohio University's Tom Lichtenberg. The Bobcats have won just four games in Lichtenberg's first three years and need to make some progress now.

Best bets: A MAC player will not win a major college football award. . . . No more than three league teams will average more than 20 points per game, and no place-kicker will boot 20 field goals. . . . Michigan State will have its game against Central Michigan on September 25 circled in red ink. The Chippewas have beaten the Spartans the last two seasons.

Odds and ends: For the second straight season, MAC teams will play an unbalanced conference schedule. When Akron joined the league last season, not all teams could fit the Zips on their schedule, leaving some teams with eight league games and others with nine. The champion again will be the team with the best winning percentage. . . . Eastern Michigan could have the biggest player in

the nation in 6-foot-11, 345-pound freshman offensive lineman Alex White. . . . Ball State Coach Paul Schudel made a 650-mile bicycle ride from Muncie, Ind., to Annapolis, Md., last spring to visit his son, Glenn, at the U.S. Naval Academy. The trip raised money for a Muncie children's home. . . . Bowling Green begins the season with the longest conference winning streak in the country (16 games). . . . MAC teams will play three Big Ten opponents in 1993: Western Michigan at Purdue, Toledo at Indiana and Central Michigan at Michigan State. . . . When Eastern Michigan hosts Temple on September 9, two of the three black head coaches in NCAA Division I-A football will be on opposite sidelines. The Eagles' Ron Cooper and Temple's Ron Dickerson both are entering their first season at their new schools. The third, Jim Caldwell of Wake Forest, also will be making his Division I-A head coaching debut this year. . . . Toledo defensive tackle Terry Jackson can bench-press 500 pounds and do 33 reps at 225 pounds. . . . Former Akron place-kicker/punter Daron Alcorn was the 224th (and last) player taken in the National Football League draft. Altogether, four MAC players were drafted, including Toledo defensive end Dan Williams, the first-round pick of the Denver Broncos. . . . A potential headache for broadcasters: Ball State signed twin defensive backs Raphael and Raphael Ball. . . . Bowling Green is one of only seven Division I-A teams to win at least 10 games in each of the last two seasons. The others are Alabama, Miami (Fla.), Texas A&M, Florida State, Syracuse and Notre Dame. . . . Ball State linebacker Keith McKenzie is a nephew of former NFL player Reggie McKenzie. . . . Akron Coach Gerry Faust took a pay cut when he signed a four-year contract extension last winter. "That clearly indicates his sincere belief that in tough times, all of us make sacrifices to protect the University of Akron's academic enterprise," Akron President Peggy Gordon Elliott said.

—DOUG ZALESKI

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive line:

Bowling Green State

Best offensive backfield:

Toledo

Best backup quarterback:

Tom Dubs, Ohio University

Best wide receivers:

Central Michigan

Best clutch receiver:

Ronnie Redd, Bowling Green State

Best defensive line:

Toledo

Best-hitting defensive lineman:

Maurice Bulls, Toledo

Best linebackers:

Kent

Best-hitting linebacker:

Peter Tuffo, Western Michigan

Best secondary:

Ball State

Best-hitting defensive back:

Steve Hawkins, Western Michigan

Best kicking game:

Miami of Ohio

Best kick-coverage units:

Ball State

Best coaching staff:

Central Michigan

Best coach:

Gary Blackney, Bowling Green State

Best Heisman candidate:

None

Best pro prospect:

Maurice Bulls, DE, Toledo

RETURNING LEADERS

Rushing: Deland McCullough, Miami of Ohio, 114 yds./game (227 att., 1,026 yds., 6 TDs, 4.5 avg.).

Passing efficiency: Joe Youngblood, Central Michigan, 136.7 rating pts. (278 att., 161 comp., 2,209 yds., 18 TDs).

Total offense: Joe Youngblood, Central Michigan, 195.3 yds./game (-61 yds. rushing, 2,209 yds. passing, 2,148 total yds.).

Receiving: Chris Jenkins, Ohio, 4.2 rec./game (38 rec., 550 yds., 5 TDs, 14.5 avg.).

Scoring: Chad Seitz, Miami of Ohio, 6 pts./game (0 TDs, 18 PATs, 14 FGs, 60 pts.).

Punting: Gary Layton, Miami of Ohio, 41.7 avg. (71 punts, 2,961 yds.).

Punt returns: Craig Thompson, Eastern Michigan, 12.9 avg. (15 att., 193 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Courtney Burton, Ohio, 25.9 avg. (21 att., 545 yds., 1 TD).

Field goals: Chad Seitz, Miami of Ohio, 1.3 FG/game (14/18 FGs, 78%).

Interceptions: Joe Bair, Bowling Green State, 0.64 int./game (7 int., 51 yds., 0 TDs).



Big future: Miami of Ohio's Deland McCullough was the MAC's Freshman of the Year last season.

Pups must emerge for Huskies to win again

By DON BORST

Tacoma News Tribune

There have been a few different faces, but for the most part, Washington has won the last three Pacific-10 Conference championships with the same cast of characters.

In 1990, the Huskies were building toward a share of the 1991 national championship, and in 1992, they were still riding the wave of momentum they had gained from their '91 USA Today/CNN crown.

But in 1993, few of the mainstay players from the last three seasons return. Yes, 15 starters from last year are back, but only fullback Matt Jones and linebacker Andy Mason enter their third year in the starting lineup. Coach Don James and his staff must try to replace eight players who started at least two years, including four players who were starters the last three seasons.

Clearly, this is a different Washington team than the ones that won Pac-10 crowns from 1990-92, and if the Huskies are to make history by matching Southern California (1966-69) and California (1920-23) as the only schools to win four straight league crowns, many players who were just watching when the program leaped to national prominence must emerge.

Having said that, Washington still looks like the best team in the Pac-10.

The Huskies' first obstacle is a league investigation (which should be resolved in August) into the involvement of boosters in recruiting. But even if Washington can remain upright through that scrutiny, Arizona can be expected to push the Huskies to the limit. And so can 1992 co-champion Stanford, along with Southern Cal, Arizona State and Oregon.

California appears ready to rebound from a disappointing 4-7 season, and while Washington State and UCLA may not be deep, they still have the talent to forge winning streaks and a run at a bowl game.

1 WASHINGTON

Coach: Don James (153-57-2, 18 years; 178-76-3 overall, 22 years).

1992 record: 9-3 (lost to Michigan in Rose Bowl).
Pac-10: 6-2/1st.

Key losses: Walter Bailey, CB; Mark Brunell, QB; James Clifford, LB; Jaime Fields, LB; Billy Joe Hobert, QB (declared for NFL draft); Dave Hoffmann, LB; Lincoln Kennedy, OT; Damon Mack, SE; Shane Pahukoa, FS; Tommie Smith, SS.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Mark Bruener, TE, 6-5/230, Jr.; Tom Gallagher, T, 6-5/290, Sr.; Frank Garcia, G, 6-1/283, Jr.; Matt Jones, FB, 6-2/215, Sr.; Napoleon Kaufman, TB, 5-9/170, Jr.; Joe Kralik, FL, 5-10/185, Sr.; Jim Nevelle, C, 6-2/265, Sr.; Andrew Peterson, G, 6-5/290, Jr. **Defense (5):** D'Marco Farr, MG, 6-1/265, Sr.; Jamal Fountaine, E, 6-3/230, Sr.; Steve Hoffmann, T, 6-6/250, Soph.; Andy Mason, LB, 6-2/238, Sr.; Josh Moore, CB, 6-1/190, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Travis Hanson, K, 6-0/185, Sr.; John Werdell, P, 6-2/200, Sr.

Other key returnees: Damon Barry, SE, Jr.; Eric Bjornson, QB, Jr.; Beno Bryant, TB, Sr. (RS/knee); Hillary Butler, LB, Sr.; Ernie Conwell, TE, Soph.; Theron Hill, FL, Soph.; Damon Huard, QB, Soph.; Leif Johnson, FB, Sr.; Reggie Reser, CB, Soph.; Jason Shelley, SE, Soph.; Richard Thomas, FB, Soph.

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. WASHINGTON
2. ARIZONA
3. STANFORD
4. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
5. ARIZONA STATE
6. OREGON
7. UCLA
8. CALIFORNIA
9. WASHINGTON STATE
10. OREGON STATE

Top newcomers: Jayson Bass, LB, Fr.; Curtis Bogan, LB, Fr. (RS); Jason Chorak, DL, Fr.; Fred Coleman, WR, Fr.; Dave Janoski, FL, Fr. (RS); Darius Jones, DL, Fr.; Lawyer Milloy, FS, Fr. (RS); Robert Sapp, MG, Fr. (RS); Cedric White, DT, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Stanford, Sept. 4; at Ohio State, Sept. 11; East Carolina, Sept. 25; San Jose State, Oct. 2; at California, Oct. 9; at UCLA, Oct. 16; Oregon, Oct. 23; at Arizona State, Oct. 30; at Oregon State, Nov. 6; Southern California, Nov. 13; Washington State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Huskies.
Site: Seattle.

Outlook: Players like Napoleon Kaufman, Jason Shelley, Andy Mason and Jamal Fountaine must emerge from supporting roles



Clock-eaters: With players like Ontwaun Carter, Arizona should be able to sustain some long drives.

into starring roles as the Huskies strive to win their fourth consecutive league title. They'll immediately need to erase the memory of 1992, when an 8-0 start deteriorated into a 1-3 finish.

Offensive strengths: Tailbacks Kaufman and Beno Bryant, who's coming off a knee injury, are dynamite, and three wideouts have home run potential. Four returning starters up front and tight end Mark Bruener complete the flush for a first-year starting quarterback.

Offensive weaknesses: Sophomore Damon Huard or junior Eric Bjornson will be on the spot at quarterback. The starter will get a stern test in the opener vs. Stanford.

Defensive strengths: Only five starters return, but on paper the new lineup is even faster than the 1992 unit. Few teams have two linebackers more imposing than Mason and Hillary Butler.

Defensive weaknesses: The line has good experience, but it didn't stop the run very well last year (144.7 yards per game). A good secondary lost three starters.

Special teams: The Huskies' kicking game is solid. Dazzling return men Bryant and Kaufman can create a short field for the offense.

Keys to success: The development of a quarterback will determine a great deal about how far this team can go.

Sure sign of trouble: Last year, the Huskies were able to disguise their soft defensive underbelly until November. But if they don't stuff the run early in 1993, they will be forced to deal with the problem every week.

Coach Don James says: "Our situation has flip-flopped from last year—from experience at quarterback and linebacker and in the secondary, and inexperience at receiver and the defensive line, to just the other way around."

2 ARIZONA

Coach: Dick Tomey (36-29-4, 6 years; 99-75-7 overall, 16 years).

1992 record: 6-5-1 (lost to Baylor in John Hancock Bowl).
Pac-10: 4-3-1/5th.

Key losses: Richard Griffith, TE; Mike Heemsbergen, OT; Jimmie Hopkins, DE; Keshon Johnson, CB; Jamal Lee, LB; Richard Maddox, LB; George Ma-lauulu, QB; Josh Miller, P; Darryl Morrison, CB.

Starters returning: **Offense (9):** Ontwaun Carter, TB, 5-9/182, Jr.; Troy Dickey, WR, 6-3/226, Sr.; Hicham El-Mashtoub, C, 6-3/275, Jr.; Billy Johnson, FB, 5-10/197, Sr.; Eric Johnson, G, 6-1/270, Sr.; Rod Lewis, TE, 6-5/251, Sr.; Warner Smith, G, 6-2/283, Jr.; Paul Stamer, T, 6-4/260, Jr.; Terry Vaughn, WR, 5-8/181, Sr. **Defense (6):** Tony Bouie, FS, 5-10/188, Jr.; Brant Boyer, LB, 6-2/232, Sr.; Sean Harris, LB, 6-3/251, Jr.; Jim Hoffman, T, 6-4/283, Jr.; Brandon Sanders, SS, 5-10/170, Soph.; Rob Waldrop, NG, 6-2/274, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Steve McLaughlin, K/P, 6-1/171, Jr.

Other key returnees: Tedy Bruschi, DE/LB, Soph.; Charlie Camp, LB, Jr.; Thomas Demps, LB, Soph.; Shawn Jarrett, LB, Sr.; Chuck Levy, TB, Jr.; Chris Lopez, LB, Jr.; Chuck Osborne, NG, Soph.; Mani Ott, C, Soph. (RS/elbow); Pulu Poumele, OG, Jr. (RS/knee); Mike Scurlock, CB, Jr.; Mu Tagoai, OG, Jr.; Cary Taylor, WR, Soph.

Top newcomers: Brady Batten, QB, Fr.; Bryan Hand, OT, Jr. (JC); Akil Jackson, LB, Jr. (JC/RS); Shawn Parnell, CB, Jr. (JC); Derrick Stewart, CB,

Continued

TSN

PRESEASON ALL-PACIFIC-10 TEAM

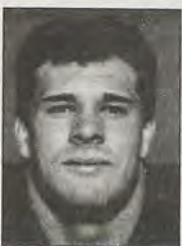
PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Mario
Bates,
RB, Arizona State

DEFENSE



Rob
Waldrop,
LB, Arizona

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

Dan White, QB, Arizona

DEFENSE:

Travis Kirschke, DL, Fr. UCLA

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	JOHNNIE MORTON, Southern California	6-0/195	Sr.
WR	JASON SHELLEY, Washington	6-2/180	Soph.
TE	BRETT CAROLAN, Washington State	6-4/244	Sr.
T	TONY BOSELLI, Southern California	6-7/285	Jr.
T	VAUGHN PARKER, UCLA	6-3/271	Sr.
C	TOBY MILLS, Arizona State	6-2/271	Sr.
OG	BRIAN CASSIDY, Stanford	6-5/300	Sr.
OG	CRAIG NOVITSKY, UCLA	6-6/275	Sr.
QB	STEVE STENSTROM, Stanford	6-2/200	Jr.
RB	MARIO BATES, Arizona State	6-2/206	Soph.
RB	NAPOLEON KAUFMAN, Washington	5-9/170	Jr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	SHANTE CARVER, Arizona State	6-5/228	Sr.
DL	WILLIE MGINEST, Southern California	6-6/240	Sr.
DL	ROB WALDROP, Arizona	6-2/274	Sr.
LB	SEAN HARRIS, Arizona	6-3/251	Jr.
LB	ERNEST JONES, Oregon	6-2/230	Sr.
LB	ANTHONY McCLANAHAN, Wash. State	6-2/222	Sr.
LB	JERROTT WILLARD, California	6-2/230	Jr.
DB	TONY BOUIE, Arizona	5-10/188	Jr.
DB	VAUGHN BRYANT, Stanford	5-11/180	Sr.
DB	MARVIN GOODWIN, UCLA	6-0/194	Jr.
DB	HERMAN O'BERRY, Oregon	5-11/179	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	TOMMY THOMPSON, Oregon	5-10/185	Sr.
P	TOMMY THOMPSON, Oregon	5-10/185	Sr.
AP	BENO BRYANT, Washington	5-11/178	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	TROY DICKEY, Arizona	6-3/226	Sr.
WR	J.J. STOKES, UCLA	6-4/215	Jr.
TE	MARK BRUENER, Washington	6-5/230	Jr.
T	JEFF KYSAR, Arizona State	6-7/326	Jr.
T	TODD STEUSSIE, California	6-6/305	Sr.
C	GLEN CAVANAUGH, Stanford	6-7/290	Sr.
OG	JOSH DUNNING, Washington State	6-3/296	Sr.
OG	ANDREW PETERSON, Washington	6-5/290	Jr.
QB	GRADY BENTON, Arizona State	6-2/185	Soph.
RB	LINDSEY CHAPMAN, California	5-9/190	Sr.
RB	DWIGHT McFADDEN, Southern California	6-0/185	Soph.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	ROMEO BANDISON, Oregon	6-5/280	Sr.
DL	JIM HOFFMAN, Arizona	6-4/283	Jr.
DL	TYRONE PARKER, Stanford	6-4/290	Sr.
LB	HILLARY BUTLER, Washington	6-2/225	Sr.
LB	DONNIE EDWARDS, UCLA	6-2/220	Soph.
LB	ANDY MASON, Washington	6-2/238	Sr.
LB	BRIAN WILLIAMS, Southern California	6-2/225	Jr.
DB	GREG BURNS, Washington State	5-10/160	Jr.
DB	WILLIAM EPHRAIM, Oregon State	5-10/162	Jr.
DB	BRANDON SANDERS, Arizona	5-10/170	Soph.
DB	JASON SEHORN, Southern California	6-3/205	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	ERIC ABRAMS, Stanford	5-7/160	Soph.
P	TIM KOLLAS, Oregon State	5-11/189	Sr.

Soph. (JC); Gary Taylor, TB, Fr. (RS/foot); Dan White, QB, Soph. (transfer/Penn State); Armon Williams, CB, Fr. (RS); Spencer Wray, SS, Jr. (JC/RS); Claudius Wright, CB, Jr. (JC/RS).

Schedule: Texas-El Paso, Sept. 4; Pacific, Sept. 11; at Illinois, Sept. 18; at Oregon State, Sept. 25; Southern California, Oct. 2; Stanford, Oct. 16; Washington State, Oct. 23; at UCLA, Oct. 30; Oregon, Nov. 6; at California, Nov. 13; at Arizona State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Wildcats.
Site: Tucson, Ariz.

Outlook: Over the years, Arizona has consistently finished in the top half of the Pac-10, but it has never been to the Rose Bowl. This could be the Wildcats' breakthrough season. In '92, the "Desert Swarm" defense stifled Miami (Fla.) and Washington, among others, and the Wildcats are ready to add a more potent offense to the equation.

Offensive strengths: The combination of running backs Ontiwaun Carter, Chuck Levy and Billy Johnson and a young-but-experienced line means the Wildcats should be able to sustain some long drives.

Offensive weaknesses: Dan White, a transfer from Penn State, has a strong arm but is inexperienced and lacks mobility. The line still has to prove it can pass-block.

Defensive strengths: It all starts with noseguard Rob Waldrop, who may be the most dominant interior player in the country. The front seven is strong and active, with emerging stars in tackle Jim Hoffman and linebacker Sean Harris.

Defensive weaknesses: Both starting cornerbacks must be replaced, which figures to inhibit the fine man-to-man coverage that made the secondary so good in 1992.

Special teams: All-America punter Josh Miller, one of the team's true MVPs in '92, has departed, but Dick Tomey's clubs always are solid on coverage and returns. Steve McLaughlin returns to handle placements.

Keys to success: White must prove that he can read defenses under pressure and the offensive line will have to prove it can pick up blitzes. If those things don't happen, the Wildcats could be blasted back into their Cro-Magnon offense.

Sure sign of trouble: If Arizona isn't 3-1



Don't blink: Stanford's Vaughn Bryant is a fast cornerback.

after its first four games, the Wildcats could be in for a long, dry season in the desert.

Coach Dick Tomey says: "I'll be very disappointed this year if we don't turn out to be really good. But then, I always think I can make the birdie (putt)."

3 STANFORD

Coach: Bill Walsh (27-10, 3 years).

1992 record: 10-3 (beat Penn State in Blockbuster Bowl). Pac-10: 6-2/T1st.

Key losses: Seyon Albert, FS; Estevan Avila, DE; Mike Cook, WR; Chris Dalman, OG; Dave Garnett, LB; Ron George, LB; Darrien Gordon, CB; J.J. Lasley, FB; John Lynch, SS; Glyn Milburn, HB; Paul Stonehouse, P; Ryan Wetnight, TE; Tom Williams, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Justin Armour, FL, 6-6/215, Jr.; Jeff Bailey, T, 6-7/290, Sr.; Brian Cassidy, G, 6-5/300, Sr.; Glen Cavanaugh, C, 6-7/290, Sr.; Steve Hoyem, T, 6-8/300, Sr.; Steve Stenstrom, QB, 6-2/200, Jr. **Defense (4):** Vaughn Bryant, CB, 5-11/180, Sr.; Jason Fisk, NT, 6-4/270, Jr.; Toby Norwood, LB, 6-0/215, Sr.; Tyrone Parker, E, 6-4/290, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Eric Abrams, K, 5-7/160, Soph.

Other key returnees: Ethan Allen, FB, Sr.; Jeff Buckley, OG, Soph.; David Carder, DE, Soph.; Tony Cline, TE, Sr.; Seth Dittman, OT, Jr.; Kwame Ellis, CB, Soph.; T.J. Gaynor, OG, Soph.; Coy Gibbs, LB, Jr.; Tommy Knecht, LB, Jr.; Aaron Mills, P, Jr.; Ellery Roberts, HB, Sr.; David Shaw, FL, Sr.; Jason White, LB, Soph.

Top newcomers: Tim Carey, QB, Fr.; Scott Frost, QB, Fr.; Matt Harper, LB, Fr.; Mark Harris, WR, Jr. (JC); Mike Mitchell, RB, Fr.; Eliel Swinton, RB, Fr.; Charles Young, WR, Fr.

Schedule: At Washington, Sept. 4; San Jose State, Sept. 11; Colorado, Sept. 18; UCLA, Sept. 25; Notre Dame, Oct. 2; at Arizona, Oct. 16; Arizona State, Oct. 23; Oregon State, Oct. 30; at Southern California, Nov. 6; at Oregon, Nov. 13; California, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Cardinal.

Site: Stanford, Calif.

Outlook: Bill Walsh's return to "The Farm" was a success, as he coached a veteran team to the Pac-10 co-championship, the Cardinal's first since 1971. Now he must see if he can keep Stanford on top with a lineup stocked primarily with neophytes. But the Cardinal shouldn't experience much of a drop-off, thanks in large part to the return of solid offensive and defensive lines.

Offensive strengths: Junior Steve Stenstrom is the best all-around quarterback in a league filled with young passers, and four returning starters on the line should do a better job of keeping Stenstrom's shirt clean.

Offensive weaknesses: With Glyn Milburn gone, the Cardinal does not have a go-to player in the backfield, with true freshmen and converted fullbacks lining up at running back.

Defensive strengths: End Tyrone Parker and nose tackle Jason Fisk are tough linemen, and Vaughn Bryant is a fast cornerback.

Defensive weaknesses: Youthfulness abounds on the perimeter of the defense, which could translate into big plays for opponents.

Special teams: Eric Abrams emerged as a spectacular kicker as a freshman last year (he hit 16 of 20 field goals), but there is a lot of uncertainty in other areas.

Keys to success: Protecting the passer. Stenstrom was beaten and battered last year, the result of trying to teach a run-blocking line (which allowed an astounding 54 sacks) to pass-block during the season. The presence of new line coach Monte



Handyman: Southern Cal flanker Johnnie Morton has great hands.

Clark, a former NFL boss, should help improve the line's pass-blocking technique.

Sure sign of trouble: The Cardinal defense notched a league-best 34 takeaways last year, and if this young group is unable to approximate that figure again, Stanford could struggle to win consistently.

Coach Bill Walsh says: "Our offensive linemen had gotten huge, emphasizing run-blocking, and it hurt us in quickness and ability to pass-protect. I think we'll be much improved in that phase."

4 SOUTHERN CAL

Coach: John Robinson (67-14-2 at USC from 1976-82).

1992 record: 6-5-1 (lost to Fresno State in Freedom Bowl). Pac-10: 5-3/T3rd.

Key losses: Wes Bender, FB; Curtis Conway, FL (declared for NFL draft); Estrus Crayton, TB; Stephon Pace, S; David Webb, DT/LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Bradford Banta, TE, 6-6/245, Sr.; Tony Boselli, T, 6-7/285, Jr.; Joel Crisman, G, 6-5/290, Sr.; Craig Gibson, C, 6-3/255, Sr.; Len Gorecki, G/T, 6-4/285, Sr.; Rob Johnson, QB, 6-4/210, Jr.; Johnnie Morton, FL, 6-0/195, Sr.; Kris Pollack, G, 6-5/285, Jr. **Defense (9):** Jerald Henry, CB, 5-8/185, Jr.; Mike Hinz, NT, 6-3/265, Sr.; Shannon Jones, T (will move to LB), 6-4/265, Sr.; Jeff Kopp, LB, 6-3/235, Jr.; Willie McGinest, E, 6-6/240, Sr.; Jason Oliver, CB, 5-11/190, Sr.; Mike Salmon, S, 6-1/200, Sr.; Jason Sehorn, S, 6-3/205, Sr.; Brian Williams, LB, 6-2/225, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Cole Ford, K, 6-2/190, Jr.; John Stonehouse, P, 5-11/205, Soph.

Other key returnees: Scott Fields, S (will move to TB), Soph.; Norberto Garrido, OT, Soph.; Clay Hattabaugh, OG, Jr.; John Herpin, CB, Jr.; Thomas Holland, DT, Sr.; Michael Jones, FB, Jr.; Robert Loya, OG, Soph.; Terry McDaniels, DT, Sr.; Dwight McFadden, TB, Soph.; Reggie Perry, S, Sr.; Deon Strother, TB, Sr.; Kyle Wachholtz, QB, Soph.

Top newcomers: Jesse Davis, CB, Jr. (JC); Ken Grace, WR, Jr. (JC); Edward Hervey, WR, Jr. (JC); Matt Keneley, NT, Fr. (RS); Sammy Knight, S, Fr.; Saladin McCullough, TB, Fr.

Schedule: North Carolina (Disneyland Pigskin Classic at Anaheim, Calif.), Aug. 29; Houston, Sept. 4; at Penn State, Sept. 11; Washington State, Sept. 25; at Arizona, Oct. 2; at Oregon, Oct. 9; Oregon State, Oct. 16; at Notre Dame, Oct. 23; at California, Oct. 30; Stanford, Nov. 6; at Washington, Nov. 13; UCLA, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Trojans.

Site: Los Angeles.

Continued



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A MUST FOR ALL DAWG FANS



Quarterbacks beware! Arizona State end Shante Carver, who already holds the school record for career sacks (31), might be the best pure pass rusher in the country.

Outlook: The Trojans have lots of experience (19 returning starters) and a renewed vigor under Coach John Robinson, who returns to Southern California following a 10-year sabbatical (nine years as coach of the Los Angeles Rams and one year as a television color commentator). Whether enough big-play talent remains for USC to emerge from another hairy schedule remains to be seen.

Offensive strengths: The line, led by mammoth tackle Tony Boselli, has good size, quarterback Rob Johnson has good experience and flanker Johnnie Morton has great hands. The backfield is well-stocked, led by sophomore Dwight McFadden and senior Deon Strother.

Offensive weaknesses: Opposing defenses have readily defined goals: Key on Morton and the tailback. Morton's 113 career catches are 113 more than all other returning receivers combined. As good as the line and backfield look, the '92 Trojans ranked last in the league in rushing (114.6-yard average).

Defensive strengths: Nine starters return, which should reduce the number of major breakdowns that plagued the Men of Troy last year. End Willie McGinest is one of the league's stars, and outside linebacker Brian Williams will be considered one by the end of the season.

Defensive weaknesses: The secondary was ripped often in 1992 (16 touchdown passes allowed and only 10 interceptions), despite McGinest's constant pressure on opposing quarterbacks that led to a Pac-10-high 16 sacks.

Special teams: Kicker Cole Ford and punter John Stonehouse are experienced, which suggests they should improve upon their disappointing 1992 efforts. The return game will miss Curtis Conway, who bolted early for the NFL.

Keys to success: If Robinson can restore the luster that the tailback position boasted under him during his previous reign at USC (1976-82), the rest of the offense will succeed.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Trojan Marching Band doesn't grow tired of playing "Conquest."

Coach John Robinson says: "I can promise you that 'student body right' will be run the same number of times as 'student body left.'"

5 ARIZONA STATE

Coach: Bruce Snyder (6-5, 1 year; 74-66-5 overall, 13 years).

1992 record: 6-5, Pac-10: 4-4/T6th.

Key losses: Bob Brasher, TE; Adam Brass, FS; Eric Guliford, WR; Gavin Hill, DE; Bryan Hooks, DT; Kevin Miniefield, CB; Steve Rausch, P; Mike Rich-ey, K; Craig Ritter, OG; Kevin Snyder, WR; Israel Stanley, DT; Brett Wallerstedt, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Grady Benton, QB, 6-2/185, Soph.; Jeff Kysar, T, 6-7/326, Jr.; Toby Mills, C, 6-2/271, Sr.; Greg Thurston, T, 6-4/260, Sr.; Farrington "Taco" Togiak, G, 6-0/329, Sr. **Defense (4):** Shante Carver, E, 6-5/228, Sr.; Justin Drago, LB, 6-3/231, Jr.; Lenny McGill, CB, 6-3/190, Sr.; Kendall Rhyne, LB, 6-3/220, Jr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returnees: Mario Bates, TB, Soph. (RS/knee); Jean Boyd, LB, Sr. (RS/neck); Mark Brown, LB, Sr.; George Montgomery, TB, Sr. (RS/knee); Harlen Rashada, LB, Soph.; Troy Rauer, QB/WR, Soph.; Brian Ryder, TE, Sr.; Sam Santana, LB, Soph.; Marcus Soward, CB, Soph.; DeMario Vaughn, OT, Jr. (RS/heart).

Top newcomers: John Livingston, WR, Jr. (JC); Dan Lucas, LB, Jr. (RS/knee); Matt Nelson, TE, Jr. (JC); Craig Newsome, CB, Jr. (JC); Noel Prefontaine, P, Soph. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton); Bryan Proby, DL, Jr. (JC); Ken Talanoa, DE, Jr. (JC); Johnny Thomas, WR, Jr. (JC); Darren Venu, DL, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Utah, Sept. 4; at Louisville, Sept. 18; Oklahoma State, Sept. 25; at Oregon State, Oct. 2; at Washington State, Oct. 9; Oregon, Oct. 16; at Stanford, Oct. 23; Washington, Oct. 30; California, Nov. 6; at UCLA, Nov. 13; Arizona, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Sun Devils.

Site: Tempe, Ariz.

Outlook: Now entering their second season under former California coach Bruce Snyder, the Sun Devils stand a good chance of earning their first bowl bid since the 1987 season. But much of Arizona State's success will depend on how well tailbacks Mario Bates and George Montgomery have recovered from knee surgery.

Offensive strengths: Passer Grady Benton wowed everyone with his accuracy as a freshman last year (66.2 percent), and when Bates and Montgomery are at full strength, the backfield is the league's best. The return of four starters will make the line solid.

Offensive weaknesses: The receiving corps must prove it can stretch the field, which it couldn't last season. A batch of newcomers could augment the unit.

Defensive strengths: End Shante Carver, who already holds the school record for career sacks (31), might be the best pure pass rusher in the country.

Defensive weaknesses: The line must be rebuilt, but it was last year, too, when the Sun Devils assembled a solid group that yielded just 3.1 yards per rush. The secondary is immature and shallow, and we're not referring to the players' personalities.

Special teams: The kicking game will be unsettled for a while, as new players jockey for the punting and place-kicking chores. Return men also must be found.

Keys to success: The young studs on defense (linebackers Harlen Rashada and Kendall Rhyne and junior college lineman Bryan Proby) must fulfill their big-play potential.

Sure sign of trouble: If, because of their injuries, Bates and/or Montgomery won't be lined up behind Benton.

Coach Bruce Snyder says: "You can see in our team whatever you want to see, depending how you feel that day. I definitely see a gradual improvement that I like."

6 OREGON

Coach: Rich Brooks (77-99-4, 16 years).

1992 record: 6-6 (lost to Wake Forest in Independence Bowl), Pac-10: 4-4/T6th.

Key losses: Eric Castle, FS; David Collinsworth, OT; Jeff Cummins, DT; Terrell Edwards, LB; Joe Farwell, LB; Vince Ferry, TE; Anthony Jones, FL; Jon Tattersall, OG.

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Sean Burwell, TB, 5-11/190, Sr.; Tom Curran, C, 6-2/260, Sr.; Derrick Deadwiler, SE, 5-9/165, Sr.; Mike DiFonzo, G, 6-4/295, Sr.; Steve Hardin, T, 6-7/300, Jr.; Danny O'Neil, QB, 6-2/178, Jr.; Juan Shedrick, FB, 6-2/228, Sr. **Defense (7):** Romeo Bandison, T, 6-5/280, Sr.; Chad Cota, SS, 6-1/188, Jr.; Ernest Jones, LB, 6-2/230, Sr.; Dave Massey, LB, 6-2/231, Sr.; Alex Molden, CB, 5-10/180, Soph.; Herman O'Berry, CB, 5-11/179, Jr.; Gary Williams, T, 6-2/278, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Tommy Thompson, K/P, 5-10/185, Sr.

Other key returnees: Jeremy Asher, LB, Soph.; Eric Barnes, OG, Sr.; D.J. Cabrera, DT, Jr.; Heath Howington, C, Jr.; Dwayne Jones, FB, Jr.; Tony Koker, LB, Jr.; Sillia Malepeai, NT, Jr. (RS/elbow); Cristin McLeMore, FL, Soph.; Justin Starck, OT, Sr.; Willy Tate, TE, Jr.; John Taumoepeau, LB, Sr.; Ricky Whittle, TB, Soph.

Top newcomers: Tony Graziani, QB, Fr. (RS); Dante Lewis, FS, Jr. (JC); Dino Philyaw, RB, Jr. (JC); Dameron Ricketts, FL, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Colorado State, Sept. 4; Montana, Sept. 11; at Illinois, Sept. 25; at California, Oct. 2; Southern California, Oct. 9; at Arizona State, Oct. 16; at Washington, Oct. 23; Washington State, Oct. 30; at Arizona, Nov. 6; Stanford, Nov. 13; Oregon State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Ducks.

Site: Eugene, Ore.

Outlook: Rich Brooks has created a monster in Eugene. For a decade, these were the gutsy little Ducks who exceeded expectations. Now, the expectations have grown almost out of control. And as Oregon seeks its fourth bowl in five years, another "little" bowl won't satisfy the mighty Ducks.

Offensive strengths: Sean Burwell and Ricky Whittle are a great tailback tandem (a combined 1,456 yards rushing last year), and Juan Shedrick may be the best blocking fullback in the Pac-10. Quarterback Danny O'Neil should play more like a veteran.

Offensive weaknesses: Although it run-blocked well last year, the line allowed 47 sacks, a figure that must be cut in half if the Ducks hope to improve markedly. The receiving corps strives to be average.

Defensive strengths: Romeo Bandison anchors a stout line, and the linebacking unit, which features hard-rushing Ernest Jones (team-high 11 sacks) and the emerging Jeremy Asher, should be fine.

Defensive weaknesses: Although Herman O'Berry, who picked off a team-high seven passes in '92, might be the league's top cornerback, the secondary appears shaky. Cornerback Alex Molden suffered a major knee injury in the Independence Bowl and might not be available until midseason.

Special teams: Tommy Thompson has the league's best leg, illustrated by his 41.4-yard punting average and 21 field goals in '92. Burwell and Derrick Deadwiler are threatening return men.

Keys to success: His wild scrambles are fun to watch, but O'Neil must get the time and learn the patience to step up into the pocket and deliver the ball.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Ducks continue to post an average-to-poor turnover ratio, as they have in recent seasons (plus 1

in '92), they can't expect to win the big games.

Coach Rich Brooks says: "We've been hanging around in November, particularly last year, but we want to be involved in the race in November."

7 UCLA

Coach: Terry Donahue (131-59-8, 17 years).

1992 record: 6-5, Pac-10: 3-5/8th.

Key losses: Kaleaph Carter, FB; Mike Chalenski, DE; Rick Daly, TE; Aron Gideon, C; Carlton Gray, CB; Othello Henderson, FS (declared for NFL draft); Sean LaChapelle, SE; Louis Perez, K; Kevin Williams, TB.

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Mike Nguyen, FL, 6-0/179, Jr.; Craig Novitsky, G, 6-6/275, Sr.; Jonathan Ogden, T, 6-8/325, Soph.; Vaughn Parker, T, 6-3/271, Sr.; Derek Stevens, G, 6-3/270, Sr.; Rob Walker, QB, 6-3/198, Soph. **Defense (8):** Donnie Edwards, LB, 6-2/220, Soph.; Marvin Goodwin, SS, 6-0/194, Jr.; Carl Greenwood, CB, 6-0/190, Jr.; Sale Isaia, NG, 6-4/285, Jr.; Nkosi Littleton, LB, 6-1/234, Sr.; Jamir Miller, LB, 6-4/233, Jr. (status uncertain; suspended in off-season); Bruce Walker, NG, 6-4/290, Sr. (status uncertain; suspended in off-season); Matt Werner, T, 6-3/253, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Darren Schager, P, 5-11/198, Jr.

Other key returnees: Bryan Adams, FL, Jr. (RS/ankle); Brian Allen, TE, Sr.; Tommy Bennett, FS, Soph.; Wayne Cook, QB, Jr.; Bradley Craig, LB, Sr.; Ryan Fien, QB, Soph.; Shane Jasper, LB, Jr.; Carrick O'Quinn, LB, Sr.; Sharmon Shah, HB, Soph.; Rod Smalley, LB, Jr.; J.J. Stokes, SE, Jr.; Daron Washington, HB, Jr.

Top newcomers: Derek Ayers, HB, Fr. (RS); Jamal Clark, DT, Fr. (RS); Anthony Cobbs, FL, Fr. (RS); Brent Guyton, LB, Fr. (RS); Travis Kirschke, DL, Fr.; Abdul McCullough, FS, Fr. (RS); Andy Meyers, OL, Fr.; Brian Willmer, LB, Fr.

Schedule: California, Sept. 4; Nebraska, Sept. 18; at Stanford, Sept. 25; at San Diego State, Sept. 30; Brigham Young, Oct. 9; Washington, Oct. 16; at Oregon State, Oct. 23; Arizona, Oct. 30; at Washington State, Nov. 6; Arizona State, Nov. 13; at Southern California, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Bruins.

Site: Los Angeles.

Outlook: The Bruins return 27 players who each started at least one game in '92, but only 15 of those players can be considered legitimate returning starters. That says a lot about the number of injuries UCLA experienced last year, but it also indicates how many key players the Bruins lost. Their rugged schedule doesn't leave much time for learning on the fly.

Offensive strengths: Tackle Vaughn Parker and guard Craig Novitsky lead a line that is experienced, but the unit was barely adequate much of the time last season (124.6 yards rushing per game and 32 sacks allowed).

Offensive weaknesses: The quarterback spot remains unsettled entering the fall, and the halfbacks (the Bruins are changing from a predominantly I-back set to split backs) were inconsistent last year.

Defensive strengths: There's plenty of experience, and if noseguard Bruce Walker and linebacker Jamir Miller are reinstated from suspensions related to off-season legal problems, this could be a solid defense.

Defensive weaknesses: The team speed appears to be missing compared to the great UCLA defenses of a few years ago (especially if Walker and Miller are missing). Opponents rolled up 162.5 yards rushing per game last year.

Special teams: Punter Darren Schager is excellent, but the return game needs substantial improvement. Additionally, kicker Louis Perez must be replaced.

Keys to success: Any quarterback (Wayne Cook, Rob Walker or Ryan Fien) must stay healthy long enough for the offense to establish some continuity.

Sure sign of trouble: If the defense is unable to hold its own on third-and-short better than in did last year, when foes converted 34.7 percent of their third downs into first downs.

Coach Terry Donahue says: "We don't have as many 'name' players as we've had in the past, but we have a lot of players who have worked hard and really want to play. And sometimes teams reach their maximum potential when they aren't star-studded."

8 CALIFORNIA

Coach: Keith Gilbertson (4-7, 1 year; 32-16 overall, 4 years).

1992 record: 4-7, Pac-10: 2-6/9th.

Key losses: Chidi Ahanotu, DE; Wolf Barber, CB; Mick Barsala, LB; Al Casner, OG; Sean Dawkins, WR (declared for NFL draft); Chris Noonan, P; Scott Roseman, DE; Mack Travis, DT; Russell White, TB; Greg Zomalt, FB.

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Dave Barr, QB, 6-4/200, Jr.; Todd Blackwell, G, 6-5/290, Sr.; Mike Caldwell, WR, 6-2/200, Sr.; Chris Carpenter, TE, 6-4/245, Sr.; Eric Mahlum, C, 6-5/285, Sr.; Todd Steussie, T, 6-6/305, Sr.; Brian Thure, T, 6-5/280, Jr. **Defense (6):** Issac Booth, CB, 6-3/185, Sr.; Brad Bowers, E, 6-7/265, Jr.; Michael Davis, LB, 6-2/220, Sr.; Tyrone Edwards, FS (will move to TB), 6-2/200, Jr.; Jerrott Willard, LB, 6-2/230, Jr.; Eric Zomalt, SS, 6-0/195, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Doug Brien, K, 6-0/170, Sr.

Other key returnees: Lindsey Chapman, TB, Sr.; Jerod Cherry, FS, Soph.; Duane Clemons, DE, Soph.; Jody Graham, CB, Sr.; Marty Holly, FB, Sr.; Paul Joiner, LB, Jr.; Reynard Rutherford, TB, Soph.; James Stallworth, LB, Soph.

Top newcomers: Ryan Longwell, P, Fr. (RS); Randy Nonhof, OG, Jr. (RS/back); Latario Rachal, WR,



Experienced unit: Offensive tackle Jonathan Ogden is part of a veteran UCLA line.

Continued

Jr. (JC); Rich Richardson, CB, Jr. (JC); Greg Webb, DT, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: At UCLA, Sept. 4; San Diego State, Sept. 11; at Temple, Sept. 18; San Jose State, Sept. 25; Oregon, Oct. 2; Washington, Oct. 9; at Washington State, Oct. 16; Southern California, Oct. 30; at Arizona State, Nov. 6; Arizona, Nov. 13; at Stanford, Nov. 20; at Hawaii, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Golden Bears.

Site: Berkeley, Calif.

Outlook: The Golden Bears' high hopes for 1992 crumbled during losses in six of their last seven games, but the return of 14 starters gives California hope that it can recapture some of the thunder it displayed in 1991.

Offensive strengths: Tackle Todd Steussie and center Eric Mahlum lead a seasoned line that was excellent at times last year. Quarterback Dave Barr is coming off a season in which he threw for more yards than any sophomore in Cal history.

Offensive weaknesses: The receiving corps lacks a big-play threat since All-America Sean Dawkins left early for the NFL. Lindsey Chapman will try to make Cal fans forget about tailback Russell White.

Defensive strengths: Superb linebacker Jerrott Willard figures to emerge as the defensive leader the Bears lacked in '92. The junior leads what should be a solid group of linebackers.

Defensive weaknesses: The line is counting heavily on new players (like junior col-

lege transfer Greg Webb), so it's more of an unknown than a weakness. The secondary needs to at least double its 1992 output of seven interceptions.

Special teams: Kicker Doug Brien, who hit 16-of-18 field goals last year, is outstanding, but the Bears hurt themselves often last season in other areas of the kicking game. Newcomer Latario Rachal might punch up the return units.

Keys to success: The continued development of Barr. He should benefit greatly from his year in Keith Gilbertson's system. Barr was hot and cold as a sophomore, which can be expected, but he has the tools to take a giant step forward and keep the offense on the field longer.

Sure sign of trouble: If Willard has to average 12.1 tackles per game again, it probably means the defensive line questions have not been answered.

Coach Keith Gilbertson says: "I really didn't think the transition part would be that big of a deal, but it was a lot more involved than I expected."

9 WASHINGTON ST.

Coach: Mike Price (22-23, 4 years; 68-67 overall, 12 years).

1992 record: 9-3 (beat Utah in Copper Bowl). Pac-10: 5-3/T3rd.

Key losses: Drew Bledsoe, QB (declared for NFL draft); Phillip Bobo, WR (declared for NFL draft);

Lewis Bush, DE; C.J. Davis, SE; Jim Eucker, OT; Bob Garman, OG; Kurt Loertscher, LB; Konrad Piskernik, OG; Robbie Tobeck, C; Clarence Williams, TE; Shaumbe Wright-Fair, RB.

Starters returning: **Offense** (2): Josh Dunning, G, 6-3/296, Sr.; Deron Pointer, FL, 5-11/175, Sr. **Defense** (9): Greg Burns, CB, 5-10/160, Jr.; Ron Childs, LB, 6-0/206, Jr.; Brian Ford, T, 6-3/287, Sr.; Ray Hall, T, 6-4/267, Sr.; Torey Hunter, CB, 5-10/176, Jr.; Anthony McClanahan, LB, 6-2/222, Sr.; Singor Mobley, SS, 6-0/180, Jr.; DeWayne Patterson, E, 6-1/252, Jr.; John Rushing, FS, 5-10/194, Jr. **Kickers** (2): Steve Johnston, P, 6-0/199, Sr.; Aaron Price, K, 5-10/193, Sr.

Other key returnees: Michael Bailey, OT, Sr.; Brett Carolan, TE, Sr.; Shane DeLaCruz, WR, Sr.; Chad Eaton, DT, Jr.; T.J. Folkers, LB, Sr.; Todd Jensen, SS, Jr.; Delton Johnson, RB, Sr.; Marc McCloskey, OG, Soph. (RS); Mike Pattinson, QB, Sr.; Clay Reis, OT, Jr.; Keith Reynolds, SE, Sr.; Don Sasa, DE, Jr.; Robert Turner, CB, Sr.; Steve Wolfe, C, Sr. (RS).

Top newcomers: Derek Chapman, QB, Jr. (JC); Chad Carpenter, WR, Fr. (RS); Chad DeGrenier, QB, Jr. (JC); Kevin Hicks, RB, Jr. (JC); Elijah Raphael, RB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Michigan, Sept. 4; Montana State, Sept. 11; Oregon State, Sept. 18; at Southern California, Sept. 25; at Pacific, Oct. 2; Arizona State, Oct. 9; California, Oct. 16; at Arizona, Oct. 23; at Oregon, Oct. 30; UCLA, Nov. 6; at Washington, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Cougars.

Site: Pullman, Wash.

Outlook: The Cougars' nine wins matched their highest victory total in six decades, but now they'll discover what life is like without Drew Bledsoe, who was the No. 1 overall pick in the NFL draft. The traditional roles are reversed in Pullman, where an experienced defense is expected to lead the way for an uncertain offense.

Offensive strengths: Does Washington State's quarterback tradition count for anything? Fifth-year senior Mike Pattinson hopes so. He'll follow in the footsteps of former great Cougar signal-callers Bledsoe, Mark Rypien, Timm Rosenbach and Jack Thompson. Tight end Brett Carolan and flanker Deron Pointer are constant big-play threats.

Offensive weaknesses: A committee of first-year players and former walk-ons figures to handle running-back duties, since heir apparent Derek Sparks will redshirt following shoulder surgery.

Defensive strengths: Linebacker Anthony McClanahan leads a fast group of nine returning starters who have big-play abilities. The secondary figures to be the Pac-10's best. Junior tackle Chad Eaton fortifies the line.

Defensive weaknesses: There is almost no depth at some positions, particularly at linebacker. One or two key injuries could unravel the whole scheme.

Special teams: Kicker Aaron Price is excellent under pressure. The punting must improve, but coverage is good and Pointer is a big-time kick returner.

Keys to success: The defense must stay healthy (again), and Pattinson must get enough pass protection to develop.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Cougars don't somehow average 120 yards rushing per game in their well-conceived offense, they won't go anywhere.

Coach Mike Price says: "I've always said, and anybody who has ever been around our program has always said, 'Mike Pattinson can do the job here. We can win with Mike.'"



Bear of a line: Tackle Todd Steussie is part of a seasoned California offensive line that was excellent at times last year.

10 OREGON STATE

Coach: Jerry Pettibone (2-19-1, 2 years; 35-51-2 overall, 8 years).

1992 record: 1-9-1. Pac-10: 0-7-1/10th.

Key losses: Zechariah Davis, CB/FS; Jason Downs, OG; Rickey Fizer, DE; Randy Horton, CB; Fletcher Keister, OG; Sailusi Poulivaati, DT; Maurice Wilson, SE.

Starters returning: Offense (8): Adam Albaugh, G, 6-5/280, Sr.; Jason Barry, HB, 5-11/212, Jr.; Johnny Feinga, C, 6-1/306, Jr.; John Garrett, T, 6-4/263, Jr.; Mark Olford, QB (will move to CB), 5-8/181, Jr.; Chad Paulson, HB, 6-1/200, Sr.; Ray Peniman, TE, 6-2/232, Sr.; J.D. Stewart, FB, 6-1/214, Soph. **Defense (9):** Herschel Currie, CB, 6-1/193, Sr.; Chad de Sully, T, 6-5/259, Sr.; William Ephraim, FS, 5-10/162, Jr.; Eric Hale, E, 6-3/213, Jr.; Michael Hale, SS, 5-11/188, Jr.; Cory Huot, LB, 6-3/229, Jr.; Tony O'Billovich, LB, 6-1/210, Sr.; Rico Petrini, LB, 6-2/219, Jr.; Reggie Tongue, CB, 6-0/191, Soph. **Kickers (2):** Jamie Burke, K, 6-0/193, Sr.; Tim Kollas, P, 5-11/189, Sr.

Other key returnees: Jim Buchanan, OT, Sr.; Chris Cross, SE, Soph.; Dennis Edwards, LB, Sr.; Tom Holmes, DT, Soph. (RS/shoulder); Alai Kalani-ualu, OG, Sr.; David Kiepke, DE, Soph.; Christian Miller, OG, Jr. (RS/knee); Don Shanklin, QB, Soph.; Ian Shields, QB, Sr.; J.J. Young, HB, Jr.

Top newcomers: Joe Douglass, HB, Fr. (RS); Packy Ena, DE, Jr. (JC); Sylvester Green, SE, Fr. (RS); Shayzar Hawkins, HB, Soph. (Prop 48); Starling Latu, DT, Jr. (JC/RS); Justin Moore, TE, Jr. (JC); Rahim Muhammad, QB, Fr. (RS); Datanyen Myers, DL, Jr. (JC); Jarrod Owens, OG, Fr. (RS); Clemente Sainten, HB, Fr. (RS); Adam Thomas, C, Jr. (transfer/Air Force); Brian Warner, CB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Wyoming, Sept. 4; at Fresno State, Sept. 11; at Washington State, Sept. 18; Arizona, Sept. 25; Arizona State, Oct. 2; Pacific, Oct. 9; at Southern California, Oct. 16; UCLA, Oct. 23; at Stanford, Oct. 30; Washington, Nov. 6; at Oregon, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Beavers.
Site: Corvallis, Ore.



Deep backfield: Chad Paulson leads a fine group of Oregon State running backs.

Outlook: After running into some brick walls disguised as Pac-10 defenders in 1992, the Beavers will try to balance their wishbone attack in '93. Last year, Oregon State took its lumps (again), but it beat Fresno State, tied Arizona, lost to Stanford by six and Oregon by eight, indicating that the Beavers can be competitive.

Offensive strengths: Halfback Chad Paul-

son leads a fine group of running backs. And with lots of experience up front (three returning starters) and the threat of a pass, the backs could get some room to run.

Offensive weaknesses: In two seasons of Jerry Pettibone's flexbone offense, Oregon State has completed 58 passes. Ian Shields, who arrived at Oregon State as a baseball player, has been given the quarterback job because the senior can throw better than the other option runners.

Defensive strengths: Talented free safety William Ephraim and rangy linebacker Tony O'Billovich headline a group of nine returning starters.

Defensive weaknesses: All that experience is great, but let's not forget this defense allowed 33 points and 398.6 yards per game last season.

Special teams: There is plenty of room for improvement in every phase after a season in which the Beavers ranked in the lower half of the league in most major categories.

Keys to success: If Shields can complete just 10 passes a game, opposing defenses will have to play honest, which will open up the running game and keep the defense off the field.

Sure sign of trouble: If Oregon State continues to struggle on third down, it'll be a long and rainy season in Corvallis. In '92, the Beavers' third-down conversion rate was a horrid 28.5 percent.

Coach Jerry Pettibone says: "We'll throw the ball more, yes, but we're not going to throw it a lot by most teams' standards." ■

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SCOUTING THE PACIFIC-10

Ascending: Arizona. For years, Arizona State has been considered the Pac-10's dozing giant, but Arizona has just as much going for it in terms of weather, facilities, recruiting and coaching. What's the one thing the Wildcats don't have? Rings or watches from a major bowl game, which they should attain this season.

Descending: UCLA.

The Bruins have been to one bowl in the last four years, lost their three best underclassmen to the National Football League and/or off-field problems in the spring and are still searching for answers at quarterback.

Nightmare schedule:

Southern California faces eight opponents who were in bowl games last season. It's difficult to determine which is the tougher half of the Trojans' 12-game "welcome back John Robinson" schedule. USC opens with North Carolina, Houston, Penn State, Washington State, Arizona and Oregon (five bowl teams) and finishes with Oregon State, Notre Dame, California, Stanford, Washington and UCLA (three bowl teams).

Dream schedule: Arizona State. The Sun Devils are looking at a 5-0 start while allowing a young team to mature. When the league race starts, Arizona State plays four of its last six games at home, where it is tough.

Best matchup of the year: Southern Cal at Washington, November 13. After being a warm-weather game for the last seven years, this contest is back to its traditional Seattle mid-November date. The winner of the Trojans-Huskies matchup has advanced to the Rose Bowl following 13 of their last 16 meetings.

Worst matchup of the year: Montana at Oregon, September 11, and Montana State at Washington State, September 11. The Ducks and Cougars could later regret these games because victories against Division I-AA teams don't count toward the six-win minimum needed to receive a bowl bid.

Shocker of the year: USC over Notre Dame on October 23 in South Bend, Ind. After losing the last 10 meetings to the Fighting Irish, the Trojans finally will rekindle some of the national interest in this storied rivalry.

Bowl bound: Washington (if it escapes its investigation unscathed) and Arizona are definite. Stanford, USC, Arizona State and Oregon also figure to work their way into bowls.

Biggest shoes to fill: Washington State quarterback Drew Bledsoe's. Mike Pattinson enters his fifth year in the Cougar program, and he finally gets the chance to prove that he can become the quarterback then-coach Dennis Erickson envisioned

while recruiting him in 1989.

Most underrated player: Ernest Jones, LB, Oregon. Players and coaches in the Pac-10 generally agree that he's one of the top candidates for the league's Defensive

Player of the Year Award.

Impact newcomers: Travis Kirschke, DL, UCLA, Fr.; Lawyer Milloy, FS, Washington, Fr. (RS); Mike Mitchell, RB, Stanford, Fr.; Latario Rachal, WR, California, Jr. (JC); Elijah Raphael, RB, Washington

State, Fr. (RS); Johnny Thomas, WR, Arizona State, Jr. (JC); Dan White, QB, Arizona, Soph. (transfer/Penn State).

Coach of the year: Arizona's Dick Tomey. After establishing a solid program in six years in Tucson, he has the Wildcats poised for big things.

Coach on the hot seat: Terry Donahue,

UCLA. It's not like anybody is going to fire him, but the Sons of Westwood aren't singing his praises like they were when the Bruins rattled off a record seven consecutive bowl victories from 1982-88. For the first time since 1976 and '77, the Bruins averaged fewer than 50,000 fans per game in consecutive seasons.

Best bets: Dwight McFadden will not finish the season as USC's starting tailback. In each of the last four years, the starter has fallen from grace (or to injury) and the third-stringer has risen to No. 1 by the end of the season. . . . At least one team will limp out of Arizona Stadium with negative rushing yards. . . . Five different Washington players will score touchdowns covering at least 50 yards. . . . Southern California or Stanford will be chosen by the bowl coalition even if another team finishes second in the Pac-10 standings. . . . Somebody from eastern Washington will be the first player chosen in the 1994 NFL draft. It's happened the past two years (Steve Emtman in 1992 and Drew Bledsoe in 1993).

Odds and ends: Arizona and Washington do not face each other in the biggest non-game of the year in the Pac-10. . . . When Arizona State's Grady Benton completed 66.2 percent of his passes last year, he smashed the NCAA record for completion percentage by a freshman, set in 1983 by Bernie Kosar of Miami (Fla.). . . . Pac-10 teams have lost 15 underclassmen to the NFL draft over the last four years. Ten of them have been first-round selections. . . . The Pac-10 paced all conferences by having 31 players selected in the 1993 NFL draft. Washington led all Pac-10 schools by having six players picked. . . . Few coaches in college football have bigger reputations than Southern California's John Robinson, who is back in Heritage Hall after a 10-year absence. Yet, among the coaches he will see across the field this season are Notre Dame's Lou Holtz, Washington's Don James, Penn State's Joe Paterno and Stanford's Bill Walsh.

—DON BORST

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive line:
Stanford

Best offensive backfield:
Washington

Best backup quarterback:
Kyle Wacholtz, Southern California

Best wide receivers:
Washington

Best clutch receiver:
Johnnie Morton, Southern California

Best defensive line:
Arizona

Best hitting defensive lineman:
Romeo Bandison, Oregon

Best linebackers:
Arizona

Best hitting linebacker:
Sean Harris, Arizona

Best secondary:
Washington State

Best hitting defensive back:
Brandon Sanders, Arizona

Best kicking game:
Oregon

Best kick-coverage units:
Washington State

Best coaching staff:
Oregon

Best coach:
Don James, Washington

Best Heisman candidate:
Rob Waldrop, NG, Arizona

Best pro prospect:
Rob Waldrop, NG, Arizona

RETURNING LEADERS

Rushing: Napoleon Kaufman, Washington, 95.0 yds./game (162 att., 1,045 yds., 6 TDs, 6.5 avg.).

Passing efficiency: Grady Benton, Arizona State, 133.68 rating pts. (225 att., 149 comp., 1,707 yds., 8 TDs).

Total offense: Dave Barr, California, 198.7 yds./game (-157 yds. rushing, 2,343 yds. passing, 2,186 total yards.).

Receiving: Johnnie Morton, Southern California, 4.6 rec./game (46 rec., 695 yds., 6 TDs, 15.1 avg.).

Scoring: Tommy Thompson, Oregon, 7.3 pts./game (0 TDs, 20 PATs, 20 FGs, 80 pts.).

Punting: Tommy Thompson, Oregon, 42.1 avg. (54 punts, 2,275 yds.).

Punt returns: Napoleon Kaufman, Washington, 14.2 avg. (19 att., 269 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Deron Pointer, Washington State, 25.5 avg. (15 att., 383 yds., 1 TD).

Field goals: Tommy Thompson, Oregon, 1.8 FG/game (20/31 FGs, 65%).

Interceptions: Herman O'Berry, Oregon, .60 int./game (6 int., 3 yds., 0 TDs).



Getting his kicks: Oregon kicker/punter Tommy Thompson has the best leg in the Pac-10.

Tide's Stallings can take the heat of the hot seat

By CHARLES HOLLIS
Birmingham News

Unlike most of his peers, Alabama Coach Gene Stallings likes it when his team is on the hot seat.

"I'd rather be the favorite than the underdog, because if you're the favorite it means you're supposed to have the best team," said Stallings, who last year guided Alabama to its seventh national championship since the introduction of wire-service balloting in 1936. "The best team usually wins most of the time."

Stallings should feel good about the 1993 season. His Crimson Tide is the favorite to win the Southeastern Conference Western Division race again as well as the league title. And the national championship once more appears within range.

But before any of that can happen, there are some questions that need answering:

- Can the defense that helped Alabama go 13-0 and manhandle Miami (Fla.) in the postseason replace All-America ends Eric Curry and John Copeland and Sugar Bowl hero George Teague (all first-round picks in the '93 NFL draft)?

- Can the running game pick up where Derrick Lassic and Martin Houston, who both have departed, left off?

- Can quarterback Jay Barker, who is 17-0 as a starter, finally become a legitimate passing threat?

Barker's '92 air travels were turbulent, as he threw for more interceptions (nine) than touchdowns (seven). But this year, he'll have the luxury of throwing to one of the best receiving corps the Tide has had in years.

"We could have an offense that wins games like our defense did last year," Barker said. "The one piece that's missing is having an effective passing game."

Losing Curry and Copeland may not be as bad as it sounds. Defensive-line coach Mike Dubose is quick to point out, "We don't have a Curry or a Copeland," but he is just as quick to say there is talent in James Gregory, Elverett Brown, Dameian Jeffries and Jeremy Nunley.

If anyone can dethrone Alabama in the SEC West and halt its 23-game winning streak, the longest in Division I-A, it may be Mississippi State, Mississippi or Auburn.

The Bulldogs will be a force, but don't take your eyes off Ole Miss. The Rebels play the Tide in Oxford for the first time in the history of the 40-game series. They also return some key players from last year's team that went 9-3 and finished runner-up to, yes, Alabama in the West.

Auburn hosts the Tide for only the second time in series history. When the two rivals met in Auburn in 1989, Alabama was 10-0 and a national title contender. The Tigers ended the Tide's winning streak and title hopes with a 30-20 victory. Pat Dye was Auburn's coach then. This time, it's 37-year-old Terry Bowden, the youngest head coach in Division I-A and the son of Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden. Terry spent the last

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH EASTERN DIVISION

1. TENNESSEE
2. GEORGIA
3. FLORIDA
4. SOUTH CAROLINA
5. VANDERBILT
6. KENTUCKY

WESTERN DIVISION

1. ALABAMA
 2. MISSISSIPPI STATE
 3. MISSISSIPPI
 4. ARKANSAS
 5. AUBURN
 6. LOUISIANA STATE
- SEC CHAMPION**
ALABAMA

six seasons coaching Division I-AA Samford in Birmingham, Ala., where he compiled a 46-22-1 record.

The Eastern Division is expected to be a



Backs aplenty: Tennessee has the best collection of runners in the SEC, including Charlie Garner.

slugout between Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. If Gators Coach Steve Spurrier finds an adequate replacement for quarterback Shane Matthews, the league's all-time passing leader, Florida could challenge the Volunteers and Bulldogs for the right to play Alabama in the December 4 SEC championship game in Birmingham.

EASTERN DIVISION

1 TENNESSEE

Coach: Phillip Fulmer (4-0, 1 year).

1992 record: 9-3 (beat Boston College in Hall of Fame Bowl). SEC East: 5-3/3rd.

Key losses: Craig Faulkner, WR (career-ending wrist injury); Rodney Gordon, OT; Todd Kelly, DE; J.J. McCleskey, SS; Tracy Smith, CB; Brian Spivey, C; Mike Stowell, OT; J.J. Surlas, DT; Jeff Tullis, DT.

Starters returning: **Offense** (7): Mario Brunson, FB, 6-1/246, Sr.; Cory Fleming, SE, 6-3/207, Sr.; Charlie Garner, TB, 5-10/187, Sr.; David Horn, TE, 6-4/240, Soph.; Bubba Miller, G, 6-1/290, Soph.; Heath Shuler, QB, 6-3/212, Jr.; Jeff Smith, G, 6-3/300, Soph. **Defense** (6): Reggie Ingram, LB, 6-2/235, Sr.; DeRon Jenkins, CB, 5-11/173, Soph.; George Kidd, LB, 6-1/213, Soph.; Jason Parker, FS, 6-0/187, Soph.; Ben Talley, LB, 6-3/235, Jr.; James Wilson, E, 6-3/251, Sr. **Kickers** (2): John Becksvort, K, 6-1/170, Jr.; Tom Hutton, P, 6-1/193, Jr.

Other key returnees: Shane Bonham, DT/DE, Sr.; Jerry Colquitt, QB, Jr.; Ronald Davis, WR, Jr.; Aaron Hayden, TB, Jr.; Kendrick Jones, WR, Jr.; Jason Layman, C, Soph.; Kevin Mays, DT, Jr.; Horace Morris, DE, Sr.; Mose Phillips, FB, Jr.; Leslie Ratliffe, OT, Soph.; Nilo Silvan, WR, Soph.; Jesse Sanders, LB, Soph.; James Stewart, TB, Jr.; Shawn Summers, DB, Soph.; James Warren, OT, Sr.; Paul Yatkowski, DT, Sr.

Top newcomers: Raymond Austin, DB, Fr.; Travis Cozart, DB/RB, Fr.; John Emery, LB, Fr. (RS); Brent Gibson, DE, Fr. (RS); Tyrone Hines, LB/DE, Soph. (Prop 48); Richard Howard, OT, Fr. (RS); Tomell Hurd, DB, Fr.; Joey Kent, WR, Fr. (RS); Tori Noel, DB, Fr.; Leland Taylor, DT, Fr. (RS); Billy Williams, WR, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Louisiana Tech, Sept. 4; Georgia, Sept. 11; at Florida, Sept. 18; Louisiana State, Sept. 25; Duke, Oct. 2; Arkansas (at Little Rock, Ark.), Oct. 9; Alabama (at Birmingham, Ala.), Oct. 16; South Carolina, Oct. 30; Louisville, Nov. 6; at Kentucky, Nov. 20; Vanderbilt, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Volunteers.

Site: Knoxville, Tenn.

Outlook: The Volunteers will discover what life is like on a long-term basis without longtime coach Johnny Majors. It won't take long for Phillip Fulmer and his perfect 4-0 record to be tested, as the success of Tennessee's season could be determined by its first three games. If the Vols start 3-0, they'll win the East. If they stumble, look out.

Offensive strengths: Tennessee has the best collection of runners in the league, and quarterback Heath Shuler is a Heisman Trophy winner waiting to happen. The number on Shuler's jersey (21) says he's different, and he is. He can throw, run and fool a defense with his ball-faking.

Offensive weaknesses: The Volunteers had a tendency to kill drives last year with penalties. That can't happen this year if they want to finish on top.

Defensive strengths: Ben Talley, Reggie Ingram, George Kidd and Jesse Sanders lead

Continued

TSN

PRESEASON ALL-SOUTHEASTERN TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Eric
Zeier,
QB, Georgia

DEFENSE



Antonio
Langham,
CB, Alabama

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

Billy Williams, WR, Tennessee

DEFENSE:

Gary Walker, E, Auburn

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	WILLIE JACKSON, Florida	6-1/195	Sr.
WR	DAVID PALMER, Alabama	5-9/170	Jr.
TE	SHANNON MITCHELL, Georgia	6-3/235	Sr.
T	REGGIE GREEN, Florida	6-6/295	Soph.
T	BERNARD WILLIAMS, Georgia	6-9/310	Sr.
C	TOBIE SHEILS, Alabama	6-3/250	Sr.
G	JON STEVENSON, Alabama	6-2/273	Jr.
G	JIM WATSON, Florida	6-3/294	Sr.
QB	ERIC ZEIER, Georgia	6-2/200	Jr.
RB	JAMES BOSTIC, Auburn	6-0/224	Jr.
RB	ERRICT RHETT, Florida	6-0/212	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	KEVIN CARTER, Florida	6-6/257	Jr.
DL	JAMES GREGORY, Alabama	6-4/283	Sr.
DL	JEREMY NUNLEY, Alabama	6-5/247	Sr.
LB	MITCH DAVIS, Georgia	6-3/240	Sr.
LB	DEWAYNE DOTSON, Mississippi	6-2/260	Sr.
LB	LEMANSKI HALL, Alabama	6-1/220	Sr.
LB	DARWIN IRELAND, Arkansas	6-1/218	Sr.
DB	JOHNNY DIXON, Mississippi	6-0/210	Sr.
DB	LARRY KENNEDY, Florida	5-10/182	Jr.
DB	ANTONIO LANGHAM, Alabama	6-1/170	Sr.
DB	GREG TREMBLE, Georgia	5-11/185	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	SCOTT ETHERIDGE, Auburn	5-11/148	Sr.
P	TODD JORDAN, Mississippi State	6-2/223	Sr.
AP	DAVID PALMER, Alabama	5-9/170	Jr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	HARRISON HOUSTON, Florida	5-9/174	Sr.
WR	EDDIE SMALL, Mississippi	6-1/200	Sr.
TE	KIRK BOTKIN, Arkansas	6-3/226	Sr.
T	WAYNE GANDY, Auburn	6-5/275	Sr.
T	ROOSEVELT PATTERSON, Alabama	6-4/290	Sr.
C	KEVIN MAWAE, Louisiana State	6-4/270	Sr.
G	BILL SARTIN, Mississippi State	6-2/291	Sr.
G	RAY STRASCHINSKE, Arkansas	6-4/262	Sr.
QB	HEATH SHULER, Tennessee	6-3/212	Jr.
RB	BRANDON BENNETT, South Carolina	6-0/205	Jr.
RB	CHARLIE GARNER, Tennessee	5-10/187	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	HENRY FORD, Arkansas	6-3/260	Sr.
DL	WILLIAM GAINES, Florida	6-5/285	Sr.
DL	ARLEYE GIBSON, Mississippi State	6-2/264	Sr.
LB	ED ROBINSON, Florida	6-0/236	Sr.
LB	MICHAEL ROGERS, Alabama	6-1/220	Jr.
LB	LATEEF TRAVIS, Mississippi State	6-3/240	Sr.
LB	CASSIUS WARE, Mississippi	6-0/240	Sr.
DB	FRANK ADAMS, South Carolina	5-8/165	Sr.
DB	JEFF BROTHERS, Vanderbilt	6-1/176	Sr.
DB	TOMMY JOHNSON, Alabama	5-10/175	Jr.
DB	KELVIN KNIGHT, Mississippi State	6-1/203	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	MICHAEL PROCTOR, Alabama	5-11/175	Soph.
P	TERRY DANIEL, Auburn	6-1/226	Jr.

a talented and deep group of linebackers.

Defensive weaknesses: The secondary is young and the run defense is suspect.

Special teams: Last year, Shawn Summers ranked second in the league in punt returns, averaging 11.4 yards per return. Both kickers, punter Tom Hutton and place-kicker John Becksvoort, return.

Key to success: If junior college transfer Billy Williams, who didn't participate in spring drills, joins the ranks of former Vol big-play receivers, Tennessee's offense will be awesome.

Sure sign of trouble: If the defense doesn't develop, it won't matter how explosive the offense is.

Coach Phillip Fulmer says: "Heath Shuler is kind of like the Pied Piper—he's a leader on the practice field and he has great ability. Our players respect him and they respond."

2 GEORGIA

Coach: Ray Goff (29-18, 4 years).

1992 record: 10-2 (beat Ohio State in Citrus Bowl). SEC East: 6-2/T1st.

Key losses: Casey Barnum, NG; Andre Hastings, WR (declared for NFL draft); Garrison Hearst, TB (declared for NFL draft); Al Jackson, CB; Greg Jackson, DT; Mike Jones, SS; Alec Millen, OT; Todd Peterson, K; Mack Strong, FB; Jack Swan, C; Tom Wallace, DT; Chris Wilson, CB.

Starters returning: Offense (6): Brian Bohannon, SE, 5-11/180, Sr.; Shannon Mitchell, TE, 6-3/235, Sr.; Steve Roberts, G, 6-3/263, Jr.; Paul Taylor, T, 6-5/270, Soph.; Bernard Williams, T, 6-9/310, Sr.; Eric Zeier, QB, 6-2/200, Jr. Defense (5): Charlie Clemons, LB, 6-2/226, Sr.; Mitch Davis, LB, 6-3/240, Sr.; Randall Godfrey, LB, 6-3/220, Soph.;

Maurice Harrell, LB, 6-3/225, Jr.; Greg Tremble, FS, 5-11/185, Sr. Kickers (1): Scot Armstrong, P, 6-2/192, Sr.

Other key returnees: Carlo Butler, LB, Sr.; Phillip Daniels, DT, Soph.; Terrell Davis, TB, Jr.; Mike Fellows, OG, Sr.; Frank Harvey, RB, Sr.; Brice Hunter, FL, Soph.; Travis Jones, DT, Sr.; Jeff Kaiser, DT, Soph.; Buster Owens, SS, Soph.; Kanon Parkman,



Top Dawg: Greg Tremble is the strong point of a suspect Georgia secondary.

K, Soph. (RS/mono); Charles Pledger, CB, Jr.; Bill Rosenberg, NG, Sr. (RS/medical); Ralph Thompson, FS, Jr. (RS/discipline); Damon Ward, LB, Jr.; David Weeks, C, Soph.

Top newcomers: Mike Bobo, QB, Fr.; Sterling Boyd, TB, Fr. (RS/medical); Derrick Byrd, LB, Fr.; D.J. Johnson, LB, Fr.; Chris McCranie, CB, Fr. (RS); Adam Meadows, TE, Fr. (RS); Carl Polite, DB/RB, Fr. (RS); Kojara Ransom, LB, Fr.; Matt Storm, DT, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: South Carolina, Sept. 4; at Tennessee, Sept. 11; Texas Tech, Sept. 18; at Mississippi, Sept. 25; Arkansas, Oct. 2; Southern Mississippi, Oct. 9; at Vanderbilt, Oct. 16; Kentucky, Oct. 23; Florida (at Jacksonville, Fla.), Oct. 30; Auburn, Nov. 13; at Georgia Tech, Nov. 25.

Nickname: Bulldogs.
Site: Athens, Ga.

Outlook: First the good news: Quarterback Eric Zeier is back. Now the bad news: All-America running back Garrison Hearst, All-SEC wide receiver Andre Hastings, fullback Mack Strong and All-SEC offensive tackle Alec Millen all are gone. But wait, there's more. Three defensive-line starters have departed, along with three starters in the secondary. The schedule won't help the Bulldogs, who play at Tennessee, Mississippi and Florida, either.

Offensive strengths: Zeier, who's accurate and able to dissect a defense, is a two-year starter and one of the top quarterbacks in the nation.

Offensive weaknesses: Last year, Hearst got all the attention, along with most of the yards, but Strong helped make the running game go. The Bulldogs must find two new backs and replace Hastings at receiver.

Defensive strengths: Mitch Davis and

Randall Godfrey are the marquee names of a stout linebacking corps.

Defensive weaknesses: Any strides the offense makes may go for naught unless the Bulldogs fortify their line and secondary.

Special teams: Three-year starting punter Scot Armstrong and place-kicker Kanon Parkman, who kicked in '91 but missed '92 with mononucleosis, give Georgia a solid 1-2 punch. Hastings' absence creates a void in the return game.

Key to success: Finding a supporting cast for Zeier, especially a go-to running back and a possession receiver.

Sure sign of trouble: If something bad happens to Zeier.

Coach Ray Goff says: "I'm concerned about whether we have the leadership among our seniors. That's been the strength of our last two teams and perhaps the main reason we've been successful."

3 FLORIDA

Coach: Steve Spurrier (28-8, 3 years; 48-21-1 overall, 6 years).

1992 record: 9-4 (beat North Carolina State in Gator Bowl). SEC East: 6-2/T1st.

Key losses: Tre Everett, WR; Monty Grow, LB; Bill Gunter, DT; Shane Matthews, QB; Carlton Miles, LB; Del Speer, CB; Will White, FS.

Starters returning: Offense (10): Gantt Crouch, C, 6-3/263, Sr.; Dean Golden, G, 6-6/276, Jr.; Reggie Green, T, 6-6/295, Soph.; Harrison Houston, WR, 5-9/174, Sr.; Willie Jackson, WR, 6-1/195, Sr.; Greg Keller, TE, 6-5/235, Sr.; Jason Odom, T, 6-5/280, Soph.; Kelvin Randolph, FB, 5-10/221, Sr.; Errict Rhett, RB, 6-0/212, Sr.; Jim Watson, G, 6-3/294, Sr. **Defense (6):** Kevin Carter, E, 6-6/257, Jr.; Johnnie Church, E, 6-3/240, Soph.; Ben Hanks, LB, 6-2/214, Soph.; Larry Kennedy, CB, 5-10/182, Jr.; Henry McMillian, T, 6-3/275, Jr.; Ed Robinson, LB, 6-0/236, Sr. **Kickers (3):** Judd Davis, K, 6-1/178, Jr.; Shayne Edge, P, 5-11/171, Jr.; Bart Edmiston, K, 5-11/169, Soph.

Other key returnees: David Barnard, DT, Soph.; Mark Campbell, DL, Soph.; Dexter Daniels, LB, Soph.; Charlie Dean, TE, Sr.; Terry Dean, QB, Jr.; Monty Duncan, WR, Sr.; William Gaines, DT, Sr. (RS/knee); Michael Gilmore, FS, Jr.; Aubrey Hill, WR, Jr.; Jack Jackson, WR, Soph.; Ellis Johnson, DT, Jr.; Eddie Lake, CB, Jr.; Kedra Malone, RB, Jr.; Carlton Pouncy, LB, Soph. (RS/academics); David Swain, C, Jr.; Ryan Taylor, OT, Sr.

Top newcomers: James Bates, LB, Fr. (RS/foot); Anthony Ingrassia, OT, Jr. (transfer/Boston University); Demetric Jackson, FS, Fr. (RS); Anthonie Lott, CB, Fr. (RS); Shea Showers, WR, Fr. (RS); Shawn Wilson, CB, Fr. (RS); Lawrence Wright, FS, Fr. (RS); Danny Wuertfel, QB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Arkansas State, Sept. 4; at Kentucky, Sept. 11; Tennessee, Sept. 18; Mississippi State, Oct. 2; at Louisiana State, Oct. 9; at Auburn, Oct. 16; Georgia (at Jacksonville, Fla.), Oct. 30; Southwestern Louisiana, Nov. 6; at South Carolina, Nov. 13; Vanderbilt, Nov. 20; Florida State, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Gators.

Site: Gainesville, Fla.

Outlook: Fifty-one lettermen are back, including 10 starters on offense. However, one of the offensive starters not returning is record-setting quarterback Shane Matthews. But Steve Spurrier is at his best when it comes to taking an anonymous quarterback and turning him into a passing machine. Just ask Matthews.

Offensive strengths: Florida's quarterback will have the luxury of throwing to one of the best receiving corps in the nation. Harrison Houston, Willie Jackson and Jack Jackson, along with outstanding running back Errict Rhett, each caught more than 28 passes for 400 or more yards. A veteran line



Strength up front: A veteran Florida line is anchored by standout tackle Reggie Green, who excelled as a freshman.

is anchored by standout tackle Reggie Green, who excelled as a freshman.

Offensive weaknesses: Junior quarterback Terry Dean has virtually no experience.

Defensive strengths: Kevin Carter, Henry McMillian, William Gaines, Ellis Johnson and Johnnie Church give Florida a top-notch line.

Defensive weaknesses: Cornerback Larry Kennedy is the lone returning starter in the secondary.

Special teams: Junior Shayne Edge, who averaged 43.3 yards as a freshman and 40.8 as a sophomore, is one of the premier punters in the nation.

Key to success: For Florida's "fun and gun" offense to be on target, it's an absolute must that a quarterback emerges.

Sure sign of trouble: If Spurrier starts shuffling quarterbacks.

Coach Steve Spurrier says: "We feel like the experience they (the linemen) gained last season, followed by the physical conditioning in our off-season strength program, will make us a far more physical team in 1993. The offensive and defensive lines should be the strengths of our football team."

4 SOUTH CAROLINA

Coach: Sparky Woods (20-21-3, 4 years; 58-40-5 overall, 9 years).

1992 record: 5-6, SEC East: 3-5/4th.

Key losses: Cedric Bembery, NG; Ernest Dye, OT; Kenny Farrell, OG; Antoine Rivers, OG; Mike Whitman, TE.

Starters returning: Offense (8): Brandon Bennett, RB, 6-0/205, Jr.; Mathew Campbell, TE, 6-5/255, Sr.; Toby Cates, WR, 6-0/185, Jr.; Rob DeBoer, FB, 5-10/205, Sr.; Vincent Dinkins, G, 6-2/285, Jr.; Boomer Foster, TE, 6-5/240, Jr.; Corey Louchiey, T, 6-8/290, Sr.; Steve Taneyhill, QB, 6-5/205, Soph. **Defense (8):** Frank Adams, CB, 5-8/165, Sr.; Eric Brown, LB, 6-2/225, Sr.; Hank Campbell, LB, 6-0/220, Jr.; Ernest Dixon, LB, 6-2/240, Sr.; Norman Greene, FS, 6-2/190, Jr.; Eric Sullivan, E, 6-3/250, Soph.; David Turnipseed, E, 6-4/260, Jr.; Tony Watkins, SS, 5-11/195, Jr. **Kickers (1):** Marty Simpson, K/P, 6-3/190, Jr.

Other key returnees: James Dexter, OT, Soph.; Jerry Inman, FS, Sr.; Lawrence Mitchell, LB, Jr.; Ron Nealy, CB, Soph.; Asim Penny, WR, Jr.; Jahmal Pettiford, NG, Sr.; Mike Reddick, RB, Soph.; Reggie Richardson, CB, Soph.; Chris Rumph, LB, Jr.; Shawn Sterling, SS, Soph.; Blake Williamson, QB, Soph.; Mike Washington, NG, Soph.

Top newcomers: Quinn Brodie, LB, Fr.; Stacy Evans, DL, Jr. (JC); Anton Gunn, OG, Fr. (RS); Mercedes Hamilton, DL, Fr.; Cleon Jones, RB, Jr. (RS/academics); Tony Law, DL, Soph. (Prop 48); Monty

Continued

Means, WR, Soph. (Prop 48); Reed Morton, K, Fr.; Robert Smith, LB, Fr.; Joe Troupe, RB, Fr. (RS).
Schedule: At Georgia, Sept. 4; at Arkansas, Sept. 11; Louisiana Tech, Sept. 18; Kentucky, Sept. 23; Alabama, Oct. 2; East Carolina, Oct. 9; at Mississippi State, Oct. 16; Vanderbilt, Oct. 23; at Tennessee, Oct. 30; Florida, Nov. 13; Clemson, Nov. 20.
Nickname: Gamecocks.
Site: Columbia, S.C.

Outlook: Thanks to the long-haired wonder kid, quarterback Steve Taneyhill, South Carolina's 1992 season wasn't a disaster. Taneyhill's brashness and passing arm helped the Gamecocks win five of their last six games following a 0-5 start. Sixteen other starters also return, but South Carolina's schedule opens and closes with a bang. Matching last year's 5-6 record will take some doing.

Offensive strengths: Buoyed by Brandon Bennett and Rob DeBoer, the Gamecocks' running attack should rank among the best in the SEC. Taneyhill is quickly developing into a top-notch signal-caller.

Offensive weaknesses: Just two starters, guard Vincent Dinkins and tackle Corey Louchiey, return on the line. That doesn't bode well for an offense that ranked next-to-last in the league in total offense (288.8 yards per game) and last in scoring (14.6-point average).

Defensive strengths: Ernest Dixon, Eric Brown and Hank Campbell are experienced linebackers. Eric Sullivan and David Turnipseed are veteran ends and the secondary returns three starters, including standout cornerback Frank Adams.

Defensive weaknesses: The Gamecocks have plenty of veterans returning, but that may not be good news. They ranked 10th in the league last year in total defense (358.6 yards allowed per outing) and rushing defense (188.2). But the offense didn't help matters. Depth also is a serious concern.

Special teams: When he isn't anchoring the secondary, Adams is returning kickoffs for big yardage. Last year, he ranked second in the SEC and 13th in the nation with a 25.3-yard average. Steady Marty Simpson returns to handle both the punting and place-kicking chores.

Keys to success: The defense must hold together long enough to give Taneyhill a chance to jump-start the offense.

Sure sign of trouble: If South Carolina loses at home to either Louisiana Tech or Kentucky, it could be another restless season in Columbia.

Coach Sparky Woods says: "I'm concerned about our offensive line. We could be pretty good by October, but we need to be pretty good by September."

5 VANDERBILT

Coach: Gerry DiNardo (9-13, 2 years).

1992 record: 4-7, SEC East: 2-6/T5th.

Key losses: Pat Akos, TE (declared for NFL draft); Tony Cates, DT; Robbie Chura, K; David Lawrence, P; Gary Rogers, NG; Clarence Sevilian, SE; Marcus Wilson, QB; Robbie Young, CB.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Ryan Bell, G, 6-3/275, Sr.; Eric Dahlberg, T, 6-6/264, Sr.; Tony Jackson, TB, 5-8/176, Sr.; Eric Lewis, WR, 6-0/210, Jr.; Royce Love, FB, 6-2/246, Soph.; Mark Mikesell, G, 6-4/271, Sr.; Owen Neil, T, 6-5/285,



Strong DBs: South Carolina's secondary returns three starters, including standout cornerback Frank Adams.

Soph.; Richard Saenz, C, 6-4/263, Jr. **Defense (8):** Jeff Brothers, FS/P, 6-1/176, Sr.; Brad Brown, LB, 6-3/228, Sr.; Robert Davis, CB, 5-9/193, Sr.; John DeWitt, T, 6-4/242, Sr.; Rico Francis, LB, 6-0/204, Sr.; Shelton Quarles, LB, 6-2/212, Sr.; Aaron Smith, SS, 5-11/195, Sr.; Alan Young, T, 6-4/244, Sr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returns: Gabe Banks, SE, Soph.; Sam Chalmers, LB, Sr.; Gerald Collins, LB, Sr.; Cliff Deese, TB, Soph.; Rob Juliano, K, Soph.; Byron King, CB, Jr.; Bryon Koepke, TE, Soph.; James Manley, NG, Soph.; Kenny Simon, QB, Soph.; Sanford Ware, SE, Soph.

Top newcomers: Brian Boykin, DT, Fr. (RS); Trey Champagne, OT, Fr. (RS); Allen DeGraffenreid, DT, Fr. (RS); Cedric Douglas, QB, Fr. (RS); Ronnie Gordon, QB, Fr. (RS); Bill Marinangel, TB/P, Fr. (RS); Chad Painter, OG, Fr. (RS); Steve Yenner, K, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: At Wake Forest, Sept. 4; Alabama, Sept. 11; at Mississippi, Sept. 18; Auburn, Oct. 2; Cincinnati, Oct. 9; Georgia, Oct. 16; at South Carolina, Oct. 23; Kentucky, Nov. 6; Navy, Nov. 13; at Florida, Nov. 20; at Tennessee, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Commodores.

Site: Nashville, Tenn.

Outlook: This is one of those "on-paper-they-look-improved" stories. With 16 starters back, Gerry DiNardo appears to have sufficient firepower to improve on the 5-6 and 4-7 records he compiled in each of his first two seasons. The defense is better, but the offense must replace quarterback Marcus Wilson, which won't be easy. Additionally, the schedule is tough. All of this could make for a long year for the Commodore faithful.

Offensive strengths: Vandy's I-bone attack is proving to be a reliable weapon. The Commodores will benefit from the return of the entire starting line and backs Tony Jackson, Royce Love and Eric Lewis.

Offensive weaknesses: A quarterback must be found and standout tight end Pat Akos turned pro early, which will make it difficult for the I-bone to reload. Kenny Simon, who backed up Wilson, and redshirt freshmen Cedric Douglas and Ronnie Gordon are the top quarterback candidates.

Defensive strengths: The Commodores should boast more overall team speed and size than in years past. Returning starters Shelton Quarles, Brad Brown and Rico Francis anchor a solid linebacking corps.

Defensive weaknesses: Opponents are relying more on sustained drives than big plays to succeed, which means Vandy's defense is getting better. But the defense still doesn't make enough big plays. In '92, the Commodores netted just 20 takeaways, which tied for ninth in the SEC.

Special teams: Vanderbilt has to replace both kickers. Standout free safety Jeff Brothers led the SEC in punt-return average last year (12.3) and Jackson set a school record by averaging 24.8 yards per kickoff return. Brothers also may punt.

Keys to success: If a quarterback emerges and the starters remain healthy, Vanderbilt may post its first winning season since 1982.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Commodores still are searching for a signal-caller in October.

Coach Gerry DiNardo says: "The questions we took into spring practice were the same questions we took out of spring practice. We've still got to find a quarterback, a tight end and depth at the other positions."

6 KENTUCKY

Coach: Bill Curry (11-22, 3 years; 68-75-4 overall, 13 years).

1992 record: 4-7, SEC East: 2-6/T5th.

Key losses: Brad Armstead, FS; Chuck Bradley, OT; Matt Brum, C; Kurt Johnson, FL; Jody Matthews, OG; Neil Page, TE; Doug Pelfrey, K; Todd Perry, OG; Reggie Smith, LB; Jason Todd, P; Sterling Ward, DB; Dean Wells, DE.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Mark Askin, T, 6-5/295, Jr.; Tim Calvert, SE, 5-9/165, Sr.; Damon Hood, TB (will move to FB), 6-2/226, Jr.; Pookie Jones, QB, 6-1/192, Jr.; Matt Riazzi, WR, 5-7/179, Sr.; Terry Samuels, FB (will move to TE), 6-2/245, Sr. **Defense (7):** Zane Beehn, E, 6-4/250, Sr.; Damon Betz, T, 6-4/275, Jr.; Marty Moore, LB, 6-1/239, Sr.; Don Robinson, CB, 6-1/183, Sr.; Adrian Sherwood, CB, 5-11/162, Sr.; Robert Stinson, T, 6-4/267, Jr.; Duce Williams, LB, 6-0/205, Jr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returns: Dan Ariza, P, Jr.; Alfonso Browning, WR, Sr.; Howard Carter, DE, Jr.; Mark Chatmon, SE, Sr.; Brent Claiborne, K, Sr.; Marcus Jenkins, SS, Sr.; Melvin Johnson, FS, Jr.; Barry Jones, OG, Soph.; Billy Lofton, OT, Sr.; Chris Page, OT, Soph.; Donnie Redd, TB, Jr.; Corey Reeves, TE, Jr.; David Snardon, LB, Soph.

Top newcomers: Isaac Curtis, SE, Fr. (RS); Donnell Gordon, TB, Fr.; Raymond McLaurin, TB, Fr. (RS); Maurece Williams, TB, Fr.; Michael Woodfork, FB, Fr. (RS); Eric Wright, LB, Fr. (RS); Randy Wyatt, FL/TB, Jr. (transfer/Louisville).

Schedule: Kent, Sept. 4; Florida, Sept. 11; at Indiana, Sept. 18; at South Carolina, Sept. 23; Mississippi, Oct. 2; Louisiana State, Oct. 16; at Georgia, Oct. 23; at Mississippi State, Oct. 30; at Vanderbilt, Nov. 6; East Carolina, Nov. 13; Tennessee, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Wildcats.

Site: Lexington, Ky.

Outlook: After going 4-7, 3-8 and 4-7 in his first three seasons, Coach Bill Curry is optimistic this could be the year things improve in Lexington. There is enough experience on offense to believe the Wildcats can challenge for the Eastern Division title, but they must improve a defense that ranked last in the SEC in points allowed (25.5 per game) and last in total defense (381.9 yards allowed per contest). That's why Curry hired former Louisiana State coach Mike Archer to be his defensive coordinator.

Offensive strengths: Because of his scrambling ability, Pookie Jones is one of the most dangerous quarterbacks in the league. The line could be the team's best yet under Curry.

Offensive weaknesses: The Wildcats' attack was erratic last year. In some games, the offense was explosive, scoring 37 points vs. Indiana and 36 vs. Mississippi State. But in others, it stumbled along and made multiple turnovers, tallying just seven points against both Georgia and Vanderbilt.

Defensive strengths: The addition of Archer will help and the return of linebacker Marty Moore, who has led the SEC in tackles in each of the last two seasons, is a bonus.

Defensive weaknesses: Opponents had little trouble running on the Wildcats last year. Lowly Cincinnati proved that by gaining 277 yards in a 17-13 upset win over Kentucky.

Special teams: The Wildcats must replace one of the nation's top kickers in Doug Pelfrey. Punter Jason Todd and exciting return man Kurt Johnson also have departed.

Keys to success: If Archer can restore respectability to the defense, the Wildcats may have a chance to post a winning record. But until Jones participates in an entire spring practice (he also plays on the baseball team), the offense may never develop continuity.

Coach Bill Curry says: "We believe our offensive line is going to be the best we've had. Not necessarily talent-wise. Certainly, we've lost some fine players the past couple of years. But they are a nasty, hard-nosed group of men. They're kind of the way you'd like defensive linemen to be."

WESTERN DIVISION

1 ALABAMA

Coach: Gene Stallings (31-6, 3 years; 58-51-1 overall, 10 years).

1992 record: 13-0 (beat Miami, Fla., in Sugar Bowl). SEC West: 9-0/1st.

Key losses: Steve Busky, TE; John Copeland, DE; Eric Curry, DE; Martin Houston, FB; Derrick Lassic, RB; Antonio London, LB; Derrick Oden, LB; George Teague, CB; George Wilson, OG; Prince Wimbley, FL.

Starters returning: Offense (6): Jay Barker, QB, 6-3/209, Jr.; Matt Hammond, T, 6-3/266, Sr.; David Palmer, FL, 5-9/170, Jr.; Roosevelt Patterson, T, 6-4/290, Sr.; Tobie Sheils, C, 6-3/250, Sr.; Jon Stevenson, G, 6-2/273, Jr. Defense (6): Chris Donnelly, FS, 6-0/180, Sr.; James Gregory, NT, 6-4/283, Sr.; Lemanski Hall, LB, 6-1/220, Sr.; Antonio Langham, CB, 6-1/170, Sr.; Michael Rogers, LB, 6-1/220, Jr.; Sam Shade, SS, 6-1/190, Jr. Kickers (2): Bryne Diehl, P, 6-3/202, Jr.; Michael Proctor, K, 5-11/175, Soph.

Other key returns: Chris Anderson, RB, Sr.; Michael Ausmus, SS, Soph.; William Barger, OG, Sr.; Curtis Brown, SE, Jr.; Elverett Brown, NT/DE, Jr.; Rick Brown, FL, Jr.; Shannon Brown, NT/DE,

Soph.; Will Brown, LB, Jr.; Brian Burgdorf, QB, Soph.; John Clay, OG, Sr.; Dennis Deason, C, Sr.; Willie Gaston, CB, Jr.; Joey Harville, OT, Jr.; Dameian Jeffries, DE, Jr.; Tommy Johnson, CB, Jr.; Kevin Lee, SE, Sr.; Victor Lockett, LB, Sr.; Tarrant Lynch, FB, Jr.; Mario Morris, LB, Jr.; Jeremy Nunley, DE, Sr.; Andre Royal, LB, Jr.; Bryan Thornton, DE, Soph.; Eric Turner, SS (will move to FB), Soph.; John Walters, LB, Soph.; Sherman Williams, RB, Jr.

Top newcomers: Maurice Belser, OL, Fr. (RS); Darrell Blackburn, LB, Fr. (RS); Ozell Powell, DL, Fr. (RS); Marcell West, WR, Fr. (RS); Laron White, DL, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Tulane (at Birmingham, Ala.), Sept. 4; at Vanderbilt, Sept. 11; Arkansas, Sept. 18; Louisiana Tech (at Birmingham), Sept. 25; at South Carolina, Oct. 2; Tennessee (at Birmingham), Oct. 16; at Mississippi, Oct. 23; Southern Mississippi, Oct. 30; Louisiana State, Nov. 6; Mississippi State, Nov. 13; at Auburn, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Crimson Tide.

Site: Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Outlook: Alabama won the 1992 national championship with superior defense and a one-dimensional offense. However, with five of its top players gone from last year's team, the defense may not be as good. But don't count on it. The Crimson Tide will reload in the defensive front, and the offense could be more explosive than in years past if quarterback Jay Barker becomes an effective passer.

Offensive strengths: David Palmer, Kevin Lee, Curtis Brown and Rick Brown stack up with any receiving unit in the SEC. Sherman Williams, Chris Anderson and Tar-



Suspect arm: Alabama's Jay Barker, who's 17-0 as a starter, has yet to make the forward pass a respected weapon.

rant Lynch are more than adequate runners. The line is experienced and two deep.

Offensive weaknesses: Barker is 17-0 as the starting quarterback, making him the winningest starter in school history. But he has yet to make the forward pass a respected weapon.

Defensive strengths: Led by All-America cornerback Antonio Langham, the secondary should be one of the nation's best. The linebacking is solid and boasts depth for a change.

Defensive weaknesses: There is talent and probably a little more depth along the line than a year ago, but there is no Eric Curry or John Copeland.

Special teams: Punter Bryne Diehl and place-kicker Michael Proctor are experienced. Palmer is a big-play punt returner.

Key to success: The defense should be OK; the real key will be if Barker can develop into a respectable passer, which would make the offense lethal and give the Tide a chance to win another national title.

Coach Gene Stallings says: "I haven't given a lot of thought to repeating. To repeat you've got to be lucky, stay away from injuries and you've got to have outstanding play from some individuals, like we had last year."

2 MISSISSIPPI ST.

Coach: Jackie Sherrill (14-10, 2 years; 119-55-2 overall, 15 years).

1992 record: 7-5 (lost to North Carolina in Peach Bowl). SEC West: 4-4/3rd.

Key losses: Daniel Boyd, LB; Jerome Brown, DE; Lee Ford, C; Chris Gardner, K; Willie Harris, WR; Kevin Henry, DE; John James, OT; Tony James, WR; Keith Joseph, LB; Kenny Roberts, RB; Olanda Truitt, WR (declared for NFL draft); Edward Williams, CB; Marc Woodard, LB.

Starters returning: Offense (5): Shea Bell, G, 6-1/287, Sr.; Michael Davis, FB (will move to TB), 6-1/233, Jr.; Jesse James, T, 6-5/307, Jr.; Greg Plump, QB, 5-11/200, Sr.; Bill Sartin, G, 6-2/291, Sr. Defense (4): Arley Gibson, NT, 6-2/264, Sr.; Kelvin Knight, FS, 6-1/203, Sr.; Juan Long, LB, 6-2/235, Sr.; Frankie Luster, SS, 6-1/195, Sr. Kickers (1): Todd Jordan, P/QB, 6-2/223, Sr.

Other key returns: Brian Anderson, C, Soph.; Kevin Bouie, TB, Jr. (RS/knee); Herman Carroll, DE, Sr.; Johnny Curtis, LB, Jr.; Bernard Euell, WR, Soph.; Tim Foster, DE, Sr.; Walt Harris, CB, Soph.; Melvin Hayes, OT, Jr.; Mike James, CB, Jr. (RS/knee); Chris Jones, WR, Soph.; Wesley Leasy, LB, Jr.; Lateef Travis, LB, Sr.; Kendell Watkins, TE, Soph.

Top newcomers: Al Cotton, DE, Jr. (JC); Eric Dotson, DE, Fr.; Torrence Jackson, DE, Jr. (JC); Eric Moulds, WR, Soph. (Prop 48).

Schedule: Memphis State, Sept. 4; Louisiana State, Sept. 11; at Tulane, Sept. 25; at Florida, Oct. 2; at Auburn, Oct. 9; South Carolina, Oct. 16; Arkansas State, Oct. 23; Kentucky, Oct. 30; Arkansas (at Little Rock, Ark.), Nov. 6; at Alabama, Nov. 13; Mississippi, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Bulldogs.

Site: Starkville, Miss.

Outlook: The Bulldogs must replace 14 starters, with the defense being the hardest hit. It might sound crazy, but the defense should be OK. The problem may be with the offense, where Coach Jackie Sherrill has a quarterback duel on his hands between returning starter Greg Plump and backup Todd Jordan. If Plump stays healthy, the Bulldogs will have a chance to top last year's 7-5 record, thanks to early games against Memphis State, Louisiana State and Tulane.

Continued

Offensive strengths: Plump can be dynamite, if he's injury free. Michael Davis, who will play tailback after spending last season at fullback, is a 233-pound bull of a runner.

Offensive weaknesses: Mississippi State lost a talented receiving trio in Willie Harris, Olanda Truitt and Tony James. Their shoes won't be filled this year.

Defensive strengths: Arley Gibson may be one of the top nose tackles in the nation. Kelvin Knight is a standout in the secondary.

Defensive weaknesses: A solid defense needs two good cornerbacks, which is something Mississippi State must find.

Special teams: When James was on the field, the Bulldogs were always a threat to score. But he and kicker Chris Gardner have departed, making Jordan the only bright spot among the special teams. Jordan is one of the nation's best punters.

Keys to success: Plump should be the starting quarterback, but he needs an injury-free season. If his shoulder mends from spring arthroscopic surgery, the Bulldogs may challenge Alabama.

Coach Jackie Sherrill says: "You're going to ask me right now who's going to start (at quarterback). I'm not going to tell you. But in the back of my mind I probably have an idea."

3 MISSISSIPPI

Coach: Billy Brewer (62-50-3, 10 years; 119-89-6 overall, 19 years).

1992 record: 9-3 (beat Air Force in Liberty Bowl). SEC West: 5-3/2nd.

Key losses: Dwayne Amos, CB; Danny Boyd, CB; Chad Brown, DT; Richard Chisolm, P; Artis Ford, DT; Germaine Kohn, FL; Brian Lee, K; Everett Lindsay, OT; Thomas McLeish, TE; Cory Philpot, TB; Lynn Ross, LB; Russ Shows, QB; Sebastian (Snake) Williams, OT.

Starters returning: Offense (5): Clint Conlee, T, 6-4/290, Sr.; Marvin Courtney, FB (will move to TB), 5-11/197, Sr.; Wesley Melton, G, 6-5/277, Sr.; Darrell Moncus, C, 6-2/260, Soph.; Eddie Small, SE, 6-1/200, Sr. **Defense (6):** Tony Collier, FS (will move to CB), 5-10/185, Sr.; Johnny Dixon, SS, 6-0/210, Sr.; Dewayne Dotson, LB, 6-2/260, Sr.; Abdul Jackson, LB, 6-0/234, Jr.; Michael Lowery, FS, 6-1/193, Soph.; Cassius Ware, LB, 6-0/240, Sr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returnees: Gary Abide, LB, Sr. (RS/ankle); Lawrence Adams, QB, Soph.; Lance Berry, WR/K, Jr.; Burkes Brown, OT, Sr.; Keith Campbell, CB, Soph.; David Harris, DT, Sr.; James Holcombe, OG, Sr.; Dou Innocent, TB, Jr.; Sean O'Malley, NG, Sr.; Brian Mays, DT, Sr.; Mark Smith, QB, Soph.; Chris Turner, TE, Jr.; Stacy Wilson, DE, Jr.; Joe Woods, WR, Soph.

Top newcomers: Sid Carmichael, DE, Jr. (JC); Troy (Huck) Ferguson, NG, Jr. (JC); Norman Hand, DT, Jr. (JC); Derek Jones, CB, Fr. (RS); Darnell Minnieweather, DE, Jr. (JC); Orlando Trainer, NG, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Auburn, Sept. 2; UT-Chattanooga, Sept. 11; Vanderbilt, Sept. 18; Georgia, Sept. 25; at Kentucky, Oct. 2; Arkansas (at Jackson, Miss.), Oct. 16; Alabama, Oct. 23; at Louisiana State, Oct. 30; at Memphis State, Nov. 6; Northern Illinois, Nov. 13; at Mississippi State, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Rebels.
Site: Oxford, Miss.

Outlook: The Rebels enjoyed a bang-up 1992 season, finishing with a 9-3 record and winning their last five games. Thirteen starters are gone, but there is enough talent back to make Mississippi a serious entry in the SEC's Western Division race. The defense will be solid, and the offense can be good if Coach Billy Brewer finds a quarterback to replace Ole Miss veteran Russ



Main man: Johnny Dixon anchors an experienced Ole Miss secondary.

Shows. The heir apparent is sophomore Lawrence Adams, who has more ability than Shows.

Offensive strengths: Marvin Courtney, a dangerous runner and pass receiver, has switched from fullback to tailback, his natural position. Brewer calls him the best all-around athlete on the team. Eddie Small gives Ole Miss a bona fide threat at wide receiver.

Offensive weaknesses: There is just no proven quarterback to be found. Adams figures to start, but only because he is a dangerous runner.

Defensive strengths: Few teams in the nation have a pair of linebackers as mean and talented as Dewayne Dotson and Cassius Ware. Strong safety Johnny Dixon anchors an experienced secondary.

Defensive weaknesses: Mississippi is counting on several junior college transfers to fill some holes in the line.

Special teams: A punter and kicker must be found. Return specialist Joe Woods is decent.

Keys to success: A quarterback who can make plays. Adams could be the man, or it might be sophomore Mark Smith. Additionally, solving their defensive-line problems would make the Rebels a legitimate contender for the league title.

Coach Billy Brewer says: "We're very inexperienced at quarterback. This is the first time in 10 years we've played with an inexperienced quarterback. We've always had a player who's been around and ready to step

up and take charge. This is not the case this time."

4 ARKANSAS

Coach: Danny Ford (first year; 96-29-4 overall, 11 years).

1992 record: 3-7-1. SEC West: 3-4-1/4th.

Key losses: Gary Adams, FS; Ron Dickerson Jr., FL; E.D. Jackson, FB; Ray Lee Johnson, DE; Owen Kelly, NG; Scott Long, DT; Pete Raether, P; Todd Wright, K.

Starters returning: Offense (9): Kirk Botkin, TE, 6-3/226, Sr.; Tracy Caldwell, SE, 5-11/163, Sr.; Bryan Cornish, T, 6-4/270, Jr.; Isaac Davis, G, 6-3/292, Sr.; Barry Lunney, QB, 6-2/180, Soph.; Oscar Malone, TB, 5-9/175, Soph.; Chris Oliver, T, 6-5/261, Sr.; Earl Scott, C, 6-3/258, Soph.; Ray Straschinske, G, 6-4/262, Sr. **Defense (7):** Tyrone Chatman, LB, 5-9/212, Sr.; Henry Ford, E, 6-3/260, Sr.; Darwin Ireland, LB, 6-1/218, Sr.; Alfred Jackson, SS, 6-0/185, Sr.; Kevin Kempf, LB, 6-3/222, Sr.; Dean Peavy, CB, 5-11/181, Jr.; Orlando Watters, CB, 5-11/172, Sr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returnees: Jason Allen, QB, Jr.; Del Delco, FS, Soph.; Oscar Gray, FB, Jr.; Carl Johnson, TE, Jr.; Willie Johnson, LB, Jr.; Doyle Preston, QB/P, Soph.; Demetrius Smith, LB, Jr. (RS/academics); Junior Soli, NG, Soph.; Curtis Thomas, DT, Jr. (RS/academics); Vernon Wade, DT, Jr.

Top newcomers: Marcus Adair, DE, Soph. (transfer/Air Force); Pat Baker, OT, Jr. (JC); Alan Behrman, K, Fr.; Mike Cherry, QB, Fr. (RS); Darius Cummings, DE, Jr. (JC); Carl Kidd, FS, Jr. (JC); Eddie Mosley, DE, Soph. (Prop 48); Don Struebing, C, Fr.

Schedule: At Southern Methodist, Sept. 4; South Carolina, Sept. 11; at Alabama, Sept. 18; Memphis State (at Little Rock, Ark.), Sept. 25; at Georgia, Oct. 2; Tennessee (at Little Rock), Oct. 9; Mississippi (at Jackson, Miss.), Oct. 16; Auburn, Oct. 30; Mississippi State (at Little Rock), Nov. 6; Tulsa, Nov. 13; at Louisiana State, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Razorbacks.
Site: Fayetteville, Ark.

Outlook: A lot has happened since the big coaching change following the traumatic 10-3 loss to The Citadel in the 1992 season opener. Jack Crowe is gone and Joe Knech has given up his title as interim head coach to assist first-year Coach Danny Ford. It may be too early to expect big things from the Razorbacks, but 16 starters return and there is more depth.

Offensive strengths: Nine starters are back, including the entire line. Guards Ray Straschinske and Isaac Davis are as good as they come.

Offensive weaknesses: Arkansas is still looking for punch and points. Last year, the Razorbacks featured the second-worst running attack in the league (104.3 yards per game) and ranked last in total offense (243.2).

Defensive strengths: Darwin Ireland, Tyrone Chatman and Kevin Kempf are experienced linebackers. Orlando Watters and Dean Peavy return at cornerback.

Defensive weaknesses: The Hogs must replace three of four starting linemen.

Special teams: Arkansas must find a kicker and a punter. But the Hogs can count on Watters, who ran back a league-best two punts for touchdowns last season, to excite on returns.

Keys to success: A trademark of a Ford team is closeness, which should make Arkansas more competitive in its second SEC season. If by some stroke of good fortune the offense can score more than it did in '92 (15.6 points per game, 11th in the SEC), look out!

Coach Danny Ford says: "Arkansas gave me the opportunity to get back into coaching

and I'm not sure everyone would have done that. I'm in debt to Arkansas for the chance to coach again. Who wouldn't want to do well in that situation. I want to be part of something great."

5 AUBURN

Coach: Terry Bowden (first year; 65-35-1 overall, 9 years).

1992 record: 5-5-1, SEC West: 2-5-1/5th.

Key losses: Tim Cromartie, DT; Karekin Cunningham, LB; Chris Gray, OT; Orlando Parker, WR (left the team); Bennie Pierce, LB; Ricky Sutton, DE; James Willis, LB (declared for NFL draft).

Starters returning: Offense (9): Thomas Bailey, WR, 6-0/196, Jr.; James Bostic, TB, 6-0/224, Jr.; Andy Fuller, TE, 6-3/243, Soph.; Wayne Gandy, T, 6-5/275, Sr.; Anthony Redmond, G, 6-5/288, Sr.; Tony Richardson, FB, 6-2/219, Sr.; Shannon Roubique, G, 6-1/278, Soph.; Greg Thompson, C, 6-2/252, Sr.; Stan White, QB, 6-3/202, Sr. **Defense (6):** Calvin Jackson, CB, 5-10/179, Soph.; Otis Mounds, FS, 6-0/194, Jr.; Damon Primus, T, 6-3/278, Sr.; Chris Shelling, SS, 5-10/180, Jr.; Fred Smith, CB, 5-9/190, Jr.; Willie Whitehead, E, 6-3/231, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Terry Daniel, P, 6-1/226, Jr.; Scott Etheridge, K, 5-11/148, Sr.

Other key returnees: Derrick Dorn, TE, Soph.; Anthony Harris, LB, Soph.; Reid McMillon, FB, Sr.; Andre Miller, DE, Soph.; Frank Sanders, WR, Jr.; Terry Solomon, LB, Soph.; Jason Taylor, OG, Soph. **Top newcomers:** Willie Anderson, OL, Fr.; Steve Davis, RB, Soph. (Prop 48); John Franklin, OT, Fr. (RS); Derrick Gibson, LB, Fr.; Jesse McCovery, TE, Fr.; Adrian Reese, TB, Fr. (RS/knee); Gary Walker, DE, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Mississippi, Sept. 2; Samford, Sept. 11; at Louisiana State, Sept. 18; Southern Mississippi, Sept. 25; at Vanderbilt, Oct. 2; Mississippi State, Oct. 9; Florida, Oct. 16; at Arkansas, Oct. 30; New Mexico State, Nov. 6; at Georgia, Nov. 13; Alabama, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Tigers.

Site: Auburn, Ala.

Outlook: The numbers alone say the Tigers will be formidable this fall: 55 lettermen return and 17 starters are back. But there is a new and unproven coach on board, Terry Bowden, and that means 55 lettermen must learn a new system. Bowden has a reputation for being offensive-minded, like his daddy at Florida State, so 10 offensive starters could be the beginning of something good. You know the defense will be strong (that's the Auburn trademark). If Bowden is the genius that some think he is, Auburn might be a team to watch.

Offensive strengths: There are running backs galore, including James Bostic, Tony Richardson, Reid McMillon and Steve Davis, the 1991 USA Today Offensive Player of the Year in the high school ranks. Davis suits up for the first time this fall after failing to qualify academically last year. Stan White is a veteran quarterback.

Offensive weaknesses: Bowden needs big-play receivers in his motion offense that is patterned after the San Francisco 49ers and Florida State. But other than Thomas Bailey, the Tigers are hurting for pass catchers.

Defensive strengths: The secondary was young last season and has the burn marks to show for it. But this year, all four starters return, and they should be wiser and better.

Defensive weaknesses: If won't matter how good the secondary is if Auburn can't find replacements for three linebackers and two linemen.

Special teams: Punter Terry Daniel and place-kicker Scott Etheridge are consistent



Shining through: Linebacker James Gillyard is one of the few bright spots on Louisiana State's defense.

and may be the best tandem in the conference. Bailey makes plays, whether returning punts or kickoffs.

Keys to success: The players must adapt to Bowden's new offense quickly. The attack is geared to throwing to running backs and running up and down the field. Staff chemistry (Bowden retained three of Pat Dye's assistants) could be a problem, or no problem at all.

Coach Terry Bowden says: "(Auburn's) a place I'd never leave. There's only one thing that would make me leave—if they don't want me here and I can't win at the level where Auburn needs to be."

6 LOUISIANA STATE

Coach: Curley Hallman (7-15, 2 years; 30-26 overall, 5 years).

1992 record: 2-9, SEC West: 1-7/6th.

Key losses: Ray Adams, CB; Odell Beckham, FB; Carlton Buckels, CB; Bo Davis, NG; Brian Deselles, P; Frank Godfrey, C; Wesley Jacob, WR; Darron Landry, OG; Bryan Madden, OT; Derriel McCorvey, SS; Clayton Mouton, DT; Pedro Suarez, K; Roovelroe Swan, LB; David Walkup, LB.

Starters returning: Offense (6): Harold Bishop, TE, 6-6/260, Sr.; Robert Davis, TB, 5-10/179, Soph.; Jamie Howard, QB, 6-1/195, Soph.; Kevin Mawae, C, 6-4/270, Sr.; Scott Ray, SE, 6-2/206, Sr.; Ronnie Sinnicht, G, 6-5/291, Sr. **Defense (4):** James Gillyard, LB, 6-2/234, Soph.; Ivory Hilliard, FS, 6-0/190, Jr.; Nate Miller, T, 6-4/300, Jr.; Ricardo Washington, LB, 6-4/218, Sr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returnees: Mike Blanchard, C, Jr.; David Butler, TB, Soph.; William Crowell, NG, Jr.; Chris Hill, TE, Soph.; Tony James, CB, Soph.; Anthony Marshall, FS, Sr. (suspended in 1992); Gabe Northern, LB, Soph.; Gary Pegues, CB, Jr.; Robert Toomer, FB, Soph.; Sheddric Wilson, SE, Soph.; Rodney Young, SS, Jr.

Top newcomers: Doug Admire, NG, Fr. (RS); Marcus Carmouche, C, Fr. (RS); Talvi Crawford, DB, Jr. (JC); Kevin Franklin, RB, Fr.; Eddie Kennison, WR, Fr.; David LaFleur, TE, Fr. (RS); Clarence Lenton, FL, Fr. (RS); Jermaine Sharp, RB, Fr.; Denard Walker, DB, Fr.

Schedule: At Texas A&M, Sept. 4; at Mississippi State, Sept. 11; Auburn, Sept. 18; at Tennessee, Sept. 25; Utah State, Oct. 2; Florida, Oct. 9; at Ken-

tucky, Oct. 16; Mississippi, Oct. 30; at Alabama, Nov. 6; Tulane, Nov. 20; Arkansas, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Tigers.

Site: Baton Rouge, La.

Outlook: Last year's 2-9 record wasn't received well in Baton Rouge. You can bet there will be pressure on Coach Curley Hallman, who enters his third year as head coach, to turn around the program in '93. He may be a year away from a winning season, but the pool of talent is improving. A good defense would sure come in handy this year.

Offensive strengths: When he isn't playing baseball, Jamie Howard is playing quarterback. He has shown flashes of greatness, but has yet to develop consistency.

Offensive weaknesses: There is no chemistry or continuity on offense. As a result, the Tigers commit a lot of mistakes. Last year, they made 28 turnovers, the second-highest total in the league.

Defensive strengths: There is a rumor that the defense will boast more overall speed. Until that becomes fact, the bright spots are linebackers Ricardo Washington and James Gillyard, tackle Nate Miller and free safety Ivory Hilliard.

Defensive weaknesses: You name it, this defense needs it: two linemen, two linebackers and three defensive backs.

Special teams: No kickers return. David Butler and Gary Pegues are dangerous kick-off-return men. A punt returner must be found.

Keys to success: Hallman made several staff changes in the off-season, which might translate into better chemistry and more wins. Regardless, Hallman seems more relaxed. His life would be even better if his offense was more productive and his defense had to spend less time on the field.

Coach Curley Hallman says: "We're going to keep working until we work our way through (the losing)." ■

SCOUTING THE SOUTHEASTERN

Ascending: Mississippi and Mississippi State. It wasn't long ago when Ole Miss Coach Billy Brewer was on the hot seat. Not anymore. Not after going 9-3 in '92 and finishing runner-up to national champion Alabama in the Western Division.

Jackie Sherrill has put the bite back in the Bulldogs, who have been to consecutive bowl games for the first time since the 1980 and '81 seasons.

Descending: Kentucky and Louisiana State. The honeymoon may be over in Lexington and Baton Rouge. Since leaving Alabama for Kentucky following the 1989 season, Bill

Curry's teams have floundered. The talent has improved, but the results haven't (11 total wins). LSU, which hasn't posted a winning record since 1988, can't seem to win under its new savior, Curley Hallman. The Bayou Bengals' 2-9 mark last year was the school's worst in 82 years.

Nightmare schedule: Louisiana State and Vanderbilt. Six of the Tigers' first nine foes played in bowl games last year, which won't make Hallman's job any easier. The Commodores open with three straight '92 bowl teams—Wake Forest, Alabama and Ole Miss—and finish the season playing at Florida and Tennessee.

Dream schedule: Alabama. The Crimson Tide plays eight games in-state, although one of those is at archrival Auburn. Out-of-state games are at Vanderbilt, South Carolina and Mississippi.

Best matchup of the year: Alabama at Ole Miss on October 23. Last year's Western Division champion and runner-up play for the first time ever in Oxford.

Worst matchup of the year: Arkansas State at Florida on September 4. Need we say more?

Shocker of the year: Vanderbilt over Tennessee in Knoxville on November 27. Commodores Coach Gerry DiNardo doesn't like to use the word "Tennessee" in his daily conversations. His disdain for the Big Orange is well-publicized in the state, and he'd like nothing better than to beat the Volunteers for the first time since 1982.

Bowl bound: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Ole Miss and Mississippi State. Buoyed by new coaches and lots of returning starters, Auburn and Arkansas could sneak into the postseason picture.

Biggest shoes to fill: Dameian Jeffries and Jeremy Nunley will try to replace Alabama's All-America defensive ends John Copeland and Eric Curry. Florida junior quarterback Terry Dean has the unenviable assignment of following the Gators' Shane Matthews, the SEC's all-time leading passer.

Most underrated player: Cassius Ware,

LB, Ole Miss. Fellow Rebel linebacker Dewayne Dotson gets most of the attention, but Ware won the MVP award in the Liberty Bowl.

Impact newcomers: Steve Davis, RB,

Auburn, Soph. (Prop 48); Carl Kidd, FS, Arkansas, Jr. (JC); Anthonie Lott, CB, Florida, Fr. (RS); Eric Moulds, WR, Mississippi State, Soph. (Prop 48); Matt Storm, DT, Georgia, Jr. (JC); Billy Williams, WR, Tennessee, Jr. (JC).

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive line:
Alabama

Best offensive backfield:
Tennessee

Best backup quarterback:
Brian Burgdorf, Alabama

Best wide receivers:
Florida

Best clutch receiver:
Willie Jackson, Florida

Best defensive line:
Alabama

Best-hitting defensive lineman:
Arley Gibson, Mississippi State

Best linebackers:
Alabama

Best-hitting linebacker:
Lemanski Hall, Alabama

Best secondary:
Alabama

Best-hitting defensive back:
Johnny Dixon, Mississippi

Best kicking game:
Auburn

Best kick-coverage units:
Arkansas

Best coaching staff:
Alabama

Best coach:
Gene Stallings, Alabama

Best Heisman candidate:
Eric Zeier, QB, Georgia

Best pro prospect:
Antonio Langham, CB, Alabama

Coach of the year: Phillip Fulmer, Tennessee. He was headed in that direction last year while subbing for Johnny Majors. Fulmer's troops are still young, but they are old enough and talented enough to win the SEC's Eastern Division race.

Coaches on the hot seat: LSU's Hallman and South Carolina's Sparky Woods. Woods

is in trouble if the Gamecocks post a third straight losing season.

Best bets: Alabama cornerback Antonio Langham will be the first defensive back picked in the 1994 National Football League draft. . . . Arkansas Coach Danny Ford will battle Tennessee's Phillip Fulmer for Coach of the Year honors. . . . Florida quarterback Terry Dean will lead the conference in every passing category. . . . Jackie Sherrill will make national headlines, one way or another. . . . Vanderbilt will suffer its 11th consecutive losing season. . . . Alabama quarterback Jay Barker will continue to win while being criticized for his passing inefficiency. . . . First-year Auburn Coach Terry Bowden will put his foot in his mouth, a la Pat Dye. . . . Florida Coach Steve Spurrier will put his foot in his mouth, but he'll back it up. . . . Georgia's Terrell Davis will take over for Garrison Hearst and run for over 1,000 yards. . . . The SEC will lead the nation in attendance for the 14th straight year.

Odds and ends: Bowden forced one of his fastest receivers, Orlando Parker, to leave the Auburn team because Parker was spending too much time with the track team and not enough at spring practice. . . . Junior college transfer Sid Carmichael could become Ole Miss' next Wesley Walls, who started at tight end and defensive end for the Rebels in 1988. Carmichael could wind up starting at fullback and defensive end. . . . Last season marked the 11th time in the last 12 years that at least half of the SEC played in a bowl game and the first time since 1963 that both Ole Miss and Mississippi State played in a bowl following the same season. . . . Alabama had a league-high six players selected in the 1993 NFL draft. John Copeland, Eric Curry and George Teague all were selected in the first round of the draft, which featured 30 SEC players. . . . For the ninth time in the last 13 years, no league posted a better non-conference winning percentage than the Southeastern Conference's .750 mark.

—CHARLES HOLLIS

RETURNING LEADERS

Rushing: Charlie Garner, Tennessee, 84.4 yds./game (154 att., 928 yds., 2 TDs, 6.0 avg.).

Passing efficiency: Eric Zeier, Georgia, 137.8 rating pts. (258 att., 151 comp., 2,248 yds., 12 TDs).

Total offense: Eric Zeier, Georgia, 192.5 yds./game (-131 yds. rushing, 2,248 yds. passing, 2,117 total yds.).

Receiving: Willie Jackson, Florida, 5.2 rec./game (62 rec., 772 yds., 8 TDs, 12.5 avg.).

Scoring: Michael Proctor, Alabama, 7.8 pts./game (0 TDs, 37 PATs, 19 FGs, 94 pts.).

Punting: Todd Jordan, Mississippi State, 43.6 avg. (52 punts, 2,267 yds.).

Punt returns: Jeff Brothers, Vanderbilt, 12.3 avg. (20 att., 246 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: David Butler, Louisiana State, 25.3 avg. (21 att., 531 yds., 0 TDs).

Field goals: Scott Etheridge, Auburn, 2 FG/game (22/28 FGs, 79%).

Interceptions: Antonio Langham, Alabama, 0.50 int./game (6 int., 114 yds., 2 TDs).



Bombs away! Mississippi State's Todd Jordan is one of the best punters in the nation.

Quarterbacks are a hot item in pass-happy SWC

By KIRK BOHLS

Austin American-Statesman

Suddenly, in a league known for so long as a hotbed of running backs, quarterbacks now have the hot hand in the Southwest Conference.

After years of sending people like Earl Campbell, Eric Dickerson and Barry Foster into the National Football League, the SWC now has quarterbacks who can throw a football as well as hand one off.

No longer a warm body for ground-bred attacks, quarterbacks are showing a pulse in the pass-happy SWC.

Houston has exported Andre Ware and David Klingler to the NFL. Texas Tech shipped out Billy Joe Tolliver. Even Texas A&M's Bucky Richardson, who was more noted for his pitches than his passes, found his way onto an NFL roster in Houston, where Baylor's Cody Carlson just became a millionaire backup.

This recent trend could be furthered in 1993 by a crew of hotshot signal-callers, several of whom have no more memory of the wishbone than the one they picked clean at noontime.

Rice's swift-footed Bert Emanuel heads the list, although Houston's bazooka-armed Jimmy Klingler will compete for equal billing in the same town. Corey Pullig, whose poised play as a freshman helped stabilize Texas A&M's run at the national championship, returns for his sophomore season. All three could be NFL material by the time their college careers wind down.

"I wouldn't trade Bert for anyone else," Rice Coach Fred Goldsmith said. "I don't think he's the pure passer Klingler is, but he's the fastest. A top quarterback is always necessary."

Houston Coach John Jenkins doesn't think Klingler resembles his older brother David as much as he does another NFL player.

"It's eerie," Jenkins said. "I'd make a comparison with him and Jim Kelly. They've got the same personality, both have big, physical, linebacker-type size, they have the same strong, powerful arm, and their throwing style, release and delivery are similar."

Baylor senior J.J. Joe, the nation's 11th-most efficient passer last season, and Texas Tech's Robert Hall, one of the most versatile quarterbacks in college football, lend depth to the position.

Texas, Texas Christian and Southern Methodist are auditioning new quarterbacks. The Longhorns might go with red-shirt freshman Shea Morenz, touted as the best schoolboy prospect at the position two years ago.

"We're ahead of '92 in the sense of understanding our system, but way behind in experience," Texas Coach John Mackovic said. "Over the years we have tended to play one quarterback, but I'm not going to hold myself to where I'll play only one."

With all the solid quarterbacks that now abound in this league, that's not such a bad choice.

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. TEXAS A&M
2. TEXAS
3. BAYLOR
4. RICE
5. HOUSTON
6. TEXAS TECH
7. TEXAS CHRISTIAN
8. SOUTHERN METHODIST

1 TEXAS A&M

Coach: R.C. Slocum (39-10-1, 4 years).
1992 record: 12-1 (lost to Notre Dame in Cotton Bowl). SWC: 7-0/1st.

Key losses: Patrick Bates, FS (declared for NFL draft); Marcus Buckley, LB; Doug Carter, FB; David Davis, P; John Ellisor, OG; Derrick Frazier, CB.

Starters returning: Offense (9): Chris Dausin, C, 6-4/270, Sr.; Tony Harrison, SE, 5-10/188, Sr.; Tyler Harrison, G, 6-4/275, Sr.; Greg Hill, TB, 5-11/206, Jr.; Jason Mathews, T, 6-7/258, Sr.; Brian Mitchell, FL, 6-0/184, Jr.; Corey Pullig, QB, 6-3/205, Soph.; Greg Schorp, TE, 6-3/233, Sr.; Dexter Wesley, T, 6-4/285, Sr. Defense (8): Sam Adams, T, 6-4/282, Jr.; Jason Atkinson, LB, 6-3/234, Sr.; Jessie Cox, LB, 6-2/220, Jr.; Eric England, T, 6-3/264, Sr.; Aaron Glenn, CB, 5-10/180, Sr.; Michael



Excellent Aggie: Texas A&M cornerback Aaron Glenn is terrific.

Hendricks, SS, 6-0/185, Jr.; Steve Solari, LB, 6-1/225, Sr.; Lance Teichelman, NG, 6-4/259, Sr. Kickers (1): Terry Venetoulis, K, 6-0/206, Sr.
Other key returnees: James Brooks, OT, Soph.; Kefa Chatham, DT, Sr.; Brad Cooper, NG, Sr.; Reggie Graham, LB, Jr.; Cliff Groce, FB, Jr.; Larry Jackson, LB, Jr.; Jeff Jones, OG, Jr.; Steve Kenney, DB, Soph.; (RS/knee); Todd Mathison, OT, Jr.; James McKeen, TE, Jr.; Ray Mickens, CB, Soph.; Antonio Shorter, LB, Jr.; Sean Terry, P, Soph.; Rodney Thomas, TB, Jr.

Top newcomers: Calvin Collins, OG, Fr. (RS); Donovan Greer, CB, Fr.; Leeland McElroy, RB, Fr. (RS); Keith Mitchell, LB, Fr. (RS); Chris Ruhman, OL, Fr.; Sherrod Wyatt, DB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Louisiana State, Sept. 4; at Oklahoma, Sept. 11; Missouri, Sept. 18; at Texas Tech, Oct. 2; Houston, Oct. 9; at Baylor, Oct. 16; at Rice, Oct. 23; Southern Methodist, Oct. 30; Louisville, Nov. 13; at Texas Christian, Nov. 20; Texas, Nov. 25.

Nickname: Aggies.

Site: College Station, Tex.

Outlook: A pending NCAA investigation and complacency may be the only factors that could derail Texas A&M in its bid for a third straight SWC title. The Aggies haven't lost a conference game in two years and are banking on better all-around depth and a more wide-open passing attack to keep them in the national championship hunt. Of course, it would help if they could score at least one touchdown in the Cotton Bowl. They've scored a total of five points in their last two trips.

Offensive strengths: With tailbacks Greg Hill and Rodney Thomas and fullback Cliff Groce, Texas A&M's running attack has no equal. The line is almost completely intact. Sophomore quarterback Corey Pullig has a promising future.

Offensive weaknesses: Pullig's future is bright, but at this point he has more composure than completions. He's also started only five games. While the receiving corps is competent, it lacks a game-breaker.

Defensive strengths: The defensive line, headed by Sam Adams and Eric England, may be approaching the level of greatness that Texas and Baylor enjoyed two years ago. Cornerback Aaron Glenn is terrific, and the linebackers are first-rate.

Defensive weaknesses: The defensive backs, while fast, are so short they need stepladders to cover tall wide receivers. The linebacking is good, but no member of the unit appears to be a big-time pass rusher.

Special teams: Terry Venetoulis is 29-for-41 in field-goal attempts the last two years, including eight from more than 40 yards and two game-winners. Barefoot punter Sean Terry, however, has had only two kicks in two years.

Keys to success: Finding a sacker supreme to replace Marcus Buckley and developing depth on defense.

Sure sign of trouble: If the Aggies get fat-headed in a mediocre conference and start thinking about January in September.

Coach R.C. Slocum says: "We'll have a good team. I hope our offense can be as good or better than last year. On defense, it won't be as easy to replace the guys we lost."

Continued

TSN

PRESEASON ALL-SOUTHWEST TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Bert
Emanuel,
QB, Rice

DEFENSE



Aaron
Glenn,
CB, Texas A&M

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

Shea Morenz, QB, Texas

DEFENSE:

Donovan Greer, CB, Texas A&M

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	LLOYD HILL, Texas Tech	6-2/180	Sr.
WR	SHERMAN SMITH, Houston	5-8/175	Sr.
TE	GREG SCHORP, Texas A&M	6-3/233	Sr.
T	DARRELL CLAPP, Houston	6-5/305	Sr.
T	CHRIS COOLEY, Rice	6-5/285	Soph.
C	CHRIS DAUSIN, Texas A&M	6-4/270	Sr.
G	DAVID LEAKS, Baylor	6-4/310	Sr.
G	TYLER HARRISON, Texas A&M	6-4/275	Sr.
QB	BERT EMANUEL, Rice	6-0/190	Sr.
RB	GREG HILL, Texas A&M	5-11/206	Jr.
RB	RODNEY THOMAS, Texas A&M	5-11/203	Jr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	SAM ADAMS, Texas A&M	6-4/282	Jr.
DL	LANCE TEICHELMAN, Texas A&M	6-4/259	Sr.
DL	ERIC ENGLAND, Texas A&M	6-3/264	Sr.
DL	CHAD PATTON, SMU	6-2/255	Sr.
LB	RYAN MCCOY, Houston	6-3/240	Sr.
LB	WINFRED TUBBS, Texas	6-5/250	Sr.
LB	JASON ATKINSON, Texas A&M	6-3/234	Sr.
DB	AARON GLENN, Texas A&M	5-10/180	Sr.
DB	SEAN WASHINGTON, Rice	5-11/180	Sr.
DB	GREG EVANS, TCU	6-2/210	Sr.
DB	NATHAN BENNETT, Rice	5-11/185	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	SCOTT SZEREDY, Texas	6-2/226	Sr.
P	ROBERT KING, Texas Tech	6-4/187	Sr.
AP	DERRICK CULLORS, TCU	5-11/180	Jr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	BRIAN BERRY, SMU	5-11/175	Sr.
WR	MIKE ADAMS, Texas	6-0/178	Soph.
TE	JAMES MCKEEHAN, Texas A&M	6-4/225	Jr.
T	STACEY PETRICH, Texas Tech	6-3/267	Sr.
T	TROY RIEMER, Texas	6-6/284	Sr.
C	CHUCK POPE, Baylor	6-1/287	Sr.
G	BOYD MILBY, TCU	6-3/275	Jr.
G	JEREMY STOUT, SMU	6-1/285	Sr.
QB	JIMMY KLINGLER, Houston	6-4/210	Jr.
RB	BYRON MORRIS, Texas Tech	6-1/235	Jr.
RB	LAMAR SMITH, Houston	5-11/222	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	NORMAN WATKINS, Texas	6-3/231	Jr.
DL	SCOTTY LEWIS, Baylor	6-4/250	Jr.
DL	STEVE STRAHAN, Baylor	6-2/294	Jr.
DL	ALLEN ALDRIDGE, Houston	6-2/240	Sr.
LB	STEVE SOLARI, Texas A&M	6-1/225	Sr.
LB	EMMETT WALDRON, Rice	6-2/220	Jr.
LB	LENOY JONES, TCU	6-4/195	Soph.
DB	JOHN W. BROWN, Houston	5-11/185	Sr.
DB	RICO WESLEY, TCU	5-9/177	Sr.
DB	JOEY ELLIS, Texas	5-9/186	Jr.
DB	STEVE KENNEY, Texas A&M	6-0/188	Soph.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	TERRY VENETOULIAS, Texas A&M	6-0/206	Sr.
P	SEAN TERRY, Texas A&M	6-2/216	Soph.

2 TEXAS

Coach: John Mackovic (6-5, 1 year; 50-41-1 overall, 8 years).

1992 record: 6-5 SWC: 4-3/T2nd.

Key losses: Jeff Boyd, OG; Jason Burleson, TE; Grady Cavness, CB; Anthony Curl, LB; Peter Gardere, QB; Willie Mack Garza, FS; Lance Gunn, SS; Todd Hunt, DT; Alan Luther, OG; Kelly McClanahan, P; Turk McDonald, C; Bo Robinson, DE; Adrian Walker, RB.

Starters returning: **Offense (5):** Mike Adams, SE, 6-0/178, Soph.; Blake Brockermeyer, T, 6-6/280, Soph.; Phil Brown, RB, 5-11/209, Sr.; Lovell Pinkney, FL, 6-5/232, Soph.; Troy Riemer, T, 6-6/284, Sr. **Defense (5):** Dominic Bustamante, T, 6-6/280, Soph.; Joey Ellis, CB, 5-9/186, Jr.; Winfred Tubbs, LB, 6-5/250, Sr.; Norman Watkins, E, 6-3/231, Jr.; Kevin Watler, LB, 6-3/225, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Scott Szeredy, K, 6-2/226, Sr.

Other key returnees: Trent Elliott, C, Jr.; John Elmore, OG, Soph.; Victor Frazier, CB, Jr.; Jimmy Hakes, TE, Jr.; Anthony Holmes, RB, Soph.; Curtis Jackson, RB, Soph.; James Lane, DT, Sr.; Chad Lucas, QB, Jr.; Van Malone, SS, Sr.; Justin McLeMore, WR, Jr.; Joe Phillips, OG, Soph.

Top newcomers: James Brown, QB, Fr.; Chris Carter, DB, Fr.; John Dutton, QB, Fr.; Shea Morenz, QB, Fr. (RS); Mark Schultis, P, Fr.; Tre Thomas, DB, Fr.; Quinton Wallace, DB, Fr.; Bryant Westbrook, CB, Fr.

Schedule: At Colorado, Sept. 4; Syracuse, Sept. 18; at Louisville, Sept. 25; Rice, Oct. 2; Oklahoma (at Dallas), Oct. 9; at Southern Methodist, Oct. 23; Texas Tech, Oct. 30; at Houston, Nov. 4; Texas Christian, Nov. 13; Baylor, Nov. 20; at Texas A&M, Nov. 25.

Nickname: Longhorns.

Site: Austin, Tex.

Outlook: Texas must find a quarterback to replace Peter Gardere, the school's all-time passing leader. The total extent of experience at the position is 14 completions. The Longhorns must shore up their defense, too, if they are to improve on their 11-11

record over the last two seasons.

Offensive strengths: Texas has more receivers than an electronics store. Mike Adams and Lovell Pinkney, each of whom averaged 20.8 yards per catch in his first season, are budding superstars. The running backs, paced by Phil Brown, are solid if not spectacular.

Offensive weaknesses: Only two tackles remain on a line that could start three sophomores and has to rely on brute strength. Molding a new line could hurt the progress of junior Chad Lucas and redshirt freshman Shea Morenz, and it may be midseason before either quarterback has grasped the offense. The tight ends are new.

Defensive strengths: Linebacker Winfred Tubbs and end Norman Watkins could explode as the Longhorns plan to use a 3-4 alignment on occasion.

Defensive weaknesses: Thanks to pass rushers who resembled statues, Texas' secondary allowed 19 TD passes. Van Malone must step up his game at strong safety. The line remains suspect.

Special teams: Scott Szeredy, who missed only five of 21 field-goal attempts and had two field goals of 52 yards, is the league's most accurate kicker. Mark Schultis may become the No. 1 punter before he steps into his first freshman English class.

Keys to success: The young quarterbacks develop quickly and the pass rush creates turnovers.

Sure sign of trouble: If neither Morenz nor Lucas takes hold of the job at quarterback and the young Longhorns become demoralized by a taxing schedule that includes Colorado and Syracuse.

Coach John Mackovic says: "The best thing about the first year is the second year. If last year was a mystery team, this is mystery team Number 2."

3 BAYLOR

Coach: Chuck Reedy (first year as head coach).

1992 record: 7-5 (beat Arizona in John Hancock Bowl). SWC: 4-3/T2nd.

Key losses: Robbie Birlson, LB; Melvin Bonner, SE; Keith Caldwell, CB; Shawn Cravens, LB; Albert Fontenot, DE; Le'Shai Maston, LB; Michael McFarland, SS; Mike McKenzie, TE; Reggie Miller, SE; David Mims, TB; Matthew Pearson, DE; Fred Robertson, CB; Trey Weir, K.

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Craig Bellamy, T (also may play TE), 6-3/266, Sr.; Will Davidson, G, 6-4/274, Jr.; J.J. Joe, QB, 5-11/179, Sr.; David Leaks, G, 6-4/310, Sr.; Fred Miller, T, 6-7/262, Soph.; Chuck Pope, C, 6-1/287, Sr.; Robert Strait, FB, 6-1/260, Sr. **Defense (3):** Chris Lewis, FS, 6-3/187, Jr.; Scotty Lewis, T (will move to E), 6-4/250, Jr.; Steve Strahan, T, 6-2/294, Jr. **Kickers (1):** Rhett Delaney, P, 5-10/198, Sr.

Other key returnees: Kendrick Bell, CB, Jr.; Marvin Callies, SE, Sr.; Chris Dull, LB, Jr.; Daryl Gardener, DE, Soph.; John Henry, FB, Sr.; Brandell Jackson, TB, Soph.; Phillip Kent, DB (will move to LB), Soph.; Mike Oatis, OT, Jr. (RS/knee).

Top newcomers: Ben Bronson, WR, Jr. (JC); David Davis, OL, Fr.; Joe Manor, DB, Fr.; Dion Marion, RB, Fr.; Chris McCloud, SE, Jr. (JC); Corey McLane, DB, Fr.; Damon Rhynes, TE, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Fresno State, Sept. 4; at Colorado, Sept. 11; at Utah State, Sept. 18; Texas Tech, Sept. 25; at Houston, Oct. 2; at Southern Methodist, Oct. 9; Texas A&M, Oct. 16; Texas Christian, Oct. 23; at Georgia Tech, Nov. 6; Rice, Nov. 13; at Texas, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Bears.

Site: Waco, Tex.

Outlook: After 21 seasons under Grant Teaff, the Baylor coaching reins have been handed over to Chuck Reedy, the team's of-

fensive coordinator the last three years. He will tinker little with the veer offense that makes Baylor distinctive in the pass-first, ask-questions-later SWC. Defense is where Baylor needs immediate help if it is to extend its string of consecutive bowl seasons to three for the first time in school history.

Offensive strengths: This team has more bullish fullbacks than new offensive coordinator Jack Crowe has red hair. A quick line that helped the Bears finish eighth nationally in rushing returns intact, and it'll be bolstered further by tackle Mike Oatis, who is coming off knee surgery. J.J. Joe has an 18-9-1 record as a starting quarterback.

Offensive weaknesses: Considering the lack of pass catchers, Joe may have to throw to himself this year. The Bears' leading returning receiver is Marvin Callies, a former quarterback who caught three passes last season. Auditions at tight end renew in August.

Defensive strengths: The Bears will be solid up front with Scotty Lewis (who has moved from tackle to end), Steve Strahan and Daryl Gardener.

Defensive weaknesses: Everywhere else. The loss of five linebackers and six defensive backs has left some serious voids. And if converted cornerback Kendrick Bell and new linebacker Phillip Kent don't pan out, things could get ugly.

Special teams: Senior Rhett Delaney averaged 40 yards a punt but must improve his hang time. The place-kicking job is wide open.

Keys to success: Finding people who can catch the ball and others who can stop opponents from doing the same.

Sure sign of trouble: If Baylor's defense is on the field from dawn to dusk.

Coach Chuck Reedy says: "The last two years we and A&M are the only two (SWC) teams that have been to bowl games, and the last three years we've been tied for second in the league. We like to feel if there is a Number 2 program right now, it's us."

4 RICE

Coach: Fred Goldsmith (17-26-1, 4 years; 19-33-1 overall, 5 years).

1992 record: 6-5, SWC: 4-3/T2nd.

Key losses: Shawn Alberding, DE; Mike Appelbaum, OG; Louis Balady, SE; Trevor Cobb, TB; Kolis Crier, TE; Charles Gulbranson, OG; Clifford Jackson, CB; Matt Sign, NG; Joey Wheeler, LB; Alonzo Williams, LB.

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Chris Cooley, T, 6-5/285, Soph.; Bert Emanuel, QB, 6-0/190, Sr.; Jimmy Golden, T, 6-4/275, Sr.; Tom Hetherington, C, 6-3/280, Sr.; Ed Howard, WR, 6-4/195, Jr.; Jimmy Lee, WR, 5-9/175, Jr. **Defense (6):** Nathan Bennett, FS, 5-11/185, Sr.; Deric Rutherford, E, 6-2/225, Jr.; Corey Seymour, T, 6-3/255, Sr.; Jeff Sowell, SS, 5-11/180, Soph.; Emmett Waldron, LB, 6-2/220, Jr.; Sean Washington, CB, 5-11/180, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Darrell Richardson, K/P, 5-9/165, Jr.

Other key returnees: Emerson Allen, WR, Soph.; Joe Davis, LB, Soph.; Mike Ecklund, DT (will move to OG), Jr.; Yoncy Edmonds, TB, Soph.; Brendon Fitzgerald, OG, Jr.; Brynton Goynes, DE, Soph.; Bobby Gray, TE (will move to OG), Jr.; Dana Hogan, DB, Jr.; Larry Izzo, LB, Soph.; Josh LaRocca, QB, Soph.; Jeffrey Mercer, LB, Soph.; Michael Shirk, NG, Jr.; Clemente Torres, TE, Jr.

Top newcomers: Kris Armstrong, WR, Fr. (RS); Sean Clarady, DE, Fr. (RS); Warrick Franklin, DB, Fr. (RS); Spencer George, TB, Fr. (RS); Johnny Golden, DL, Fr.; Wayne Herndon, DT, Fr. (RS); Ndukwe Kalu, LB, Fr.; Jeff Venghaus, WR, Fr.; Derrick Williams, LB, Fr. (RS); Richard Williams, OL,



You can look it up: Baylor's J.J. Joe has an 18-9-1 record as a starting quarterback.

Fr.; Derras Wilmington, WR, Fr. (RS); Jason Winship, DL, Fr.; Adam Zylman, LB, Fr.

Schedule: At Ohio State, Sept. 4; Tulane, Sept. 11; Sam Houston State, Sept. 18; Iowa State, Sept. 25; at Texas, Oct. 2; Texas Christian, Oct. 9; at Texas Tech, Oct. 16; Texas A&M, Oct. 23; at Southern Methodist, Nov. 6; at Baylor, Nov. 13; Houston, Nov. 26.

Nickname: Owls.

Site: Houston.

Outlook: After their first winning season in 29 years, the Owls are aiming for higher horizons in 1993: their first bowl bid in 32 years. Although some extremely fast skill-position players should ease the loss of standout tailback Trevor Cobb, Rice will go only as far as its defense takes it.

Offensive strengths: Bert Emanuel is the most versatile quarterback in the SWC. With 4.3 speed, he's also the fastest. Look for a stronger passing game with top-notch receivers like Jimmy Lee, Ed Howard and Clemente Torres.

Offensive weaknesses: Cobb's replacement will be inexperienced. Sophomore Yoncy Edmonds rushed for only 27 yards in '92 and redshirt freshman Spencer George is an unknown. Mike Ecklund and Bobby Gray are question marks at guard after being moved from defensive tackle and tight end, respectively.

Defensive strengths: All-SWC pick Em-

mett Waldron leads a solid group of linebackers. An experienced secondary returns three starters. Cornerback Sean Washington and free safety Nathan Bennett are excellent athletes.

Defensive weaknesses: The Owls finished No. 103 in overall defense (439 yards a game) last year. Brynton Goynes and Michael Shirk have been moved to end and noseguard, respectively, but have yet to be tested.

Special teams: Darrell Richardson has an intense makeup but needs to get more than 11 field-goal attempts in a season. He also needs to improve on his 32.7-yard net punting average.

Keys to success: Mustering a running attack that doesn't rely solely on Emanuel. Flustering opposing quarterbacks—and flushing them out of the pocket on occasion—wouldn't hurt.

Sure sign of trouble: If the defensive line fails again.

Coach Fred Goldsmith says: "I love having Bert run with people chasing him. That makes defensive coordinators more nervous than me. If he doesn't run, that's a waste of a lot of talent. You don't see Carl Lewis throwing the shot put, do you?"

Continued

5 HOUSTON

Coach: Kim Helton (first year as coach).

1992 record: 4-7, SWC: 2-5/T6th.

Key losses: Eric Blount, LB; Freddie Gilbert, WR; Steve Harris, CB; John Morris, C; Jeff Tait, OG; Nigel Ventress, LB; Jason Youngblood, OG.

Starters returning: Offense (7): Darrell Clapp, T, 6-5/305, Sr.; Jim Herndon, T, 6-8/295, Soph.; Keith Jack, WR, 6-0/180, Sr.; Jimmy Klingler, QB, 6-4/210, Jr.; Ron Peters, WR, 6-2/195, Jr.; Lamar Smith, FB, 5-11/222, Sr.; Sherman Smith, WR, 5-8/175, Sr. **Defense (8):** Allen Aldridge, E, 6-2/240, Sr.; John W. Brown, CB, 5-11/185, Sr.; Stephen Dixon, T, 6-0/260, Sr.; Eric Harrison, T, 6-2/265, Jr.; Nahala Johnson, E, 6-2/235, Sr.; Ryan McCoy, LB, 6-3/240, Sr.; Michael Newhouse, SS, 6-0/205, Sr.; Jerome Williams, FS, 6-2/200, Soph. **Kickers (2):** Cody Avants, P, 6-1/185, Soph.; Trace Craft, K, 6-1/181, Jr.

Other key returnees: Daniel Adams, WR, Soph.; Truett Akin, OT, Soph.; Delithro Bell, LB, Soph.; Donald Douglas, QB (will move to FS), Sr.; Chandler Evans, QB, Jr.; Marlon Fouts, DE, Soph.; Jason McDonald, WR, Jr. (RS/knee); Lawrence McPherson, RB, Soph.; Donald Moffett, WR, Sr.; Terrance Mouton, DE, Soph.; Kenny Robbins, OG, Jr.; TiAndre Sanders, RB, Sr.; Brad Whigham, OG, Sr. (RS/knee); Greg Whitty, C, Sr. (RS/knee); Steven Williams, DT, Soph.

Top newcomers: Tyson Anderson, LB, Fr.; Isaac Bell, WR, Fr.; Chuck Clements, QB, Fr. (RS); Otis Grant, DL, Fr.; Mark Gray, OL, Jr. (JC); Jack Hansen, OL, Jr. (JC); Darrrell Henderson, WR, Fr.; Chris Jones, LB, Jr. (JC); Jason Jones, DL, Fr. (RS); Mike Meux, DL, Jr. (JC); Billy Milner, OT, Jr. (JC); George Pratt, LB, Jr. (JC); Ronnie Price, OL, Fr. (RS); James Puckett, DL, Sr. (JC); David Roberts, OL, Fr. (RS); Colin Scrivener, DL, Jr. (JC); Billy Spiller, WR, Fr. (RS); Bruce Thompson, DL, Fr.; Marcus Vidrine, OL, Fr.; Charles West, WR, Fr. (RS); Alfred Young, DB, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: At Southern California, Sept. 4; Tulsa, Sept. 11; at Michigan, Sept. 25; Baylor, Oct. 2; at Texas A&M, Oct. 9; Southern Methodist, Oct. 16; at Texas Christian, Oct. 30; Texas, Nov. 4; Cincinnati, Nov. 13; Texas Tech (at San Antonio, Tex.), Nov. 20; at Rice, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Cougars.

Site: Houston.

Outlook: John Jenkins is out, Kim Helton is in as coach. However, that ol' bugaboo, defense, remains. The Cougars ranked 92nd in that category last season and must improve dramatically if they are to rebound from consecutive 4-7 seasons.

Offensive strengths: Quarterback Jimmy Klingler threw 32 touchdown passes as a part-time starter last year. Sherman Smith led the nation with 103 receptions, but he'll catch considerably fewer in 1993 as Helton phases out Houston's famed run-and-shoot offense. Lamar Smith is a dangerous runner/receiver.

Offensive weaknesses: As usual, Houston is counting on junior college additions to solidify its offensive line, a process that takes time and usually isn't very successful. On the other hand, this is the position Helton coached for 10 seasons in the NFL.

Defensive strengths: Ryan McCoy is one of the nation's premier linebackers. Melvin Robertson is the first defensive coordinator since 1990 to return for a second season with the Cougars. Donald Douglas, an excellent athlete, is being moved from quarterback to free safety.

Defensive weaknesses: Decimated by injuries and one retirement, the line was shredded on a weekly basis in '92. The Cougars force few turnovers.

Special teams: Trace Craft's poor field-goal numbers (9 of 17) stem in part from a lot of lousy snaps. Cody Avants averaged al-

most 39 yards a punt as a freshman.

Key to success: Developing a more aggressive and consistent defense.

Sure sign of trouble: If Houston gets blown out in early non-conference games at Southern Cal and Michigan. The Wolverines raked the Cougars, 61-7, last year.

Coach Kim Helton says: "I'm dirt-road smart, and I can be abrasive at times, but my heart is genuine. And I love big, tough, ugly men."

6 TEXAS TECH

Coach: Spike Dykes (34-31-1, 6 years).

1992 record: 5-6, SWC: 4-3/T2nd.

Key losses: Charlie Biggurs, OT; Steve Hoffman, NT; Ben Kirkpatrick, LB; Stance Labaj, OG; Mike Liscio, LB; John Pitts, DE; Tracy Saul, FS; Quincy White, LB.

Starters returning: Offense (9): Scott Aylor, TE, 6-4/235, Jr.; Brad Elam, C, 6-3/261, Sr.; Robert Hall, QB, 6-0/170, Sr.; Bruce Hill, FB, 6-1/220, Sr.; Lloyd Hill, SE, 6-2/180, Sr.; Bingo Mancillas, G, 6-2/275, Sr.; Derrell Mitchell, FL, 5-9/185, Sr.; Byron Morris, TB, 6-1/235, Jr.; Stacey Petrich, T, 6-3/267, Sr. **Defense (5):** Shawn Banks, LB, 6-2/214, Soph.; Donny Brooks, CB, 5-11/185, Sr.; Shawn Jackson, E, 6-3/260, Sr.; Bart Thomas, SS, 6-2/189, Jr.; Anthony Wiley, CB, 5-11/177, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Jon Davis, K, 5-11/198, Jr.; Robert King, P, 6-4/187, Sr.

Other key returnees: Anthony Armour, LB, Soph.; Jason Clemmons, QB, Sr.; Marcus Coleman, SS, Soph.; Stephen Gaines, DT, Jr.; Ed Hendrix, OG, Soph.; Mike Hunnicutt, SE, Sr.; Donald Marshall, FL, Sr.; Tony Miller, SE, Sr.; Mike Moore, OT, Sr.; Chris Ori, NT, Jr.; Larry Starr, FB, Sr.; Zach Thomas, LB, Soph.; Damon Wickware, DE, Jr.; Byron Wright, DE, Jr.

Top newcomers: Bo Adams, WR, Jr. (JC); Cat Adams, CB, Jr. (JC); Tyrone Brooks, NT, Jr. (JC); Andre Brown, FB, Soph. (Prop 48); Tony Daniels, LB, Soph. (Prop 48); LaShon Earnest, RB, Soph. (transfer/Santa Clara); Sean Johnson, NT, Soph. (transfer/Hawaii); Casey Jones, OG, Fr. (RS); Jerome Lang, LB, Fr. (RS); Curtis Mickey, DL, Fr.; Jabbar Thomas, LB, Jr. (transfer/Clark).

Schedule: Pacific, Sept. 4; at Nebraska, Sept. 11; at Georgia, Sept. 18; at Baylor, Sept. 25; Texas A&M, Oct. 2; North Carolina State, Oct. 9; Rice, Oct. 16; at Texas, Oct. 30; Texas Christian, Nov. 6; at Southern Methodist, Nov. 13; Houston (at San Antonio, Tex.), Nov. 20.

Nickname: Red Raiders.

Site: Lubbock, Tex.

Outlook: Injuries and abysmal defense combined to make Texas Tech the SWC's biggest disappointment last year. Now that the Red Raiders have mended their broken bones, they must repair a broken defense that finished 95th nationally. Coach Spike Dykes is personally taking over the defense after coordinator Carlos Mainord left for the Chicago Bears.

Offensive strengths: There is no better receiver in the country than Lloyd Hill, whose flypaper hands allow him to catch anything thrown his way. A crew of fifth-year senior linemen should protect versatile but injury-prone quarterback Robert Hall. Tailback Byron (Bam) Morris lives up to his nickname.

Offensive weaknesses: Texas Tech's tight ends don't share Hill's hands or hunger and often drop critical passes on third down. Flanker Donald Marshall has dropped more bombs than an F-16.

Defensive strengths: There aren't many. End Shawn Jackson, if motivated, can become a premier pass rusher. Newcomers Tyrone Brooks, Sean Johnson and Curtis Mickey could mean vast improvement on the line in the Raiders' new 4-4 defense.

Defensive weaknesses: Cornerbacks Donny Brooks and Anthony Wiley get beaten far too often for two guys who have combined to make 38 starts. Texas Tech hasn't had an All-SWC linebacker since 1989, and won't this year, either.

Special teams: This could be the league's finest. Place-kicker Jon Davis made eight straight field goals and 13 of 18 a year ago. Robert King had two punts of 75 yards or more.

Keys to success: Defense, defense, defense. Any questions?

Sure sign of trouble: If the Red Raiders start giving up 30 points a game again.

Coach Spike Dykes says: "We weren't that far off (in 1992), but we started 23 people on defense. We've been a top-20 offensive football team the last six years. On a good day, we're going to be hard to stop."



Apt moniker: Texas Tech tailback Byron (Bam) Morris lives up to his nickname.

7 TEXAS CHRISTIAN

Coach: Pat Sullivan (2-8-1, 1 year).

1992 record: 2-8-1. SWC: 1-6/8th.

Key losses: Mike Black, OT; Tunji Bolden, DE/DT; David Breedlove, OG; Leon Clay, QB; Curtis Modkins, TB; Jody Morse, C; Mike Noack, TE; Brad Smith, LB; Stephen Shipley, WR; Tony Rand, CB; Jeff Wilkinson, K.

Starters returning: Offense (4): Boyd Milby, G, 6-3/275, Jr.; John Oglesby, TB/FB, 6-1/228, Sr.; Jimmy Oliver, WR, 5-11/175, Jr.; Barret Robbins, T, 6-4/300, Jr. Defense (7): Greg Evans, SS, 6-2/210, Sr.; Lenoy Jones, LB, 6-4/195, Soph.; Mike Moulton, LB, 6-2/227, Jr.; Chris Piliand, E, 6-4/220, Soph.; Vincent Pryor, E, 6-2/220, Jr.; Rico Wesley, CB, 5-9/177, Sr.; Royal West, T, 6-2/280, Jr. Kickers (1): Kevin Cordesman, K/P, 5-9/180, Sr.

Other key returnees: Reggie Anderson, LB, Jr. (RS/knee); Derrick Cullors, TB, Jr.; Setrick Dickens, FL, Sr.; David King, FS, Soph.; Kyle McPherson, WR, Sr.; Rudy Oliveira, K, Sr.; Tyrone Roy, LB, Soph.; Richard Woodley, FL, Sr.

Top newcomers: Bart Epperson, OG, Jr. (JC); Brandon Hickman, C, Jr. (JC); Brian Leinart, K, Fr. (RS); Ryan Tucker, TE, Fr.; Chuck Wills, OT, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Oklahoma, Sept. 4; New Mexico, Sept. 11; Southern Methodist, Sept. 25; at Oklahoma State, Oct. 2; at Rice, Oct. 9; Tulane, Oct. 16; at Baylor, Oct. 23; Houston, Oct. 30; at Texas Tech, Nov. 6; at Texas, Nov. 13; Texas A&M, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Horned Frogs.

Site: Fort Worth, Tex.

Outlook: After a grueling first season under Pat Sullivan, the Horned Frogs are searching for stability. Texas Christian's up-and-down 1992 included a victory over Texas (snapping a 24-game losing skid against the Longhorns) and a loss to Southern Methodist (the Mustangs' first victory in the SWC since incurring the death penalty). Unless both lines mature in a hurry, the Frogs won't be stable. Not yet, anyway.

Offensive strengths: In Jimmy Oliver, Richard Woodley and Kyle McPherson, TCU has three of the swiftest wide receivers around. Running back Derrick Cullors can be explosive, but he occasionally treats the ball as if it were a hand grenade.

Offensive weaknesses: The line allowed 32 sacks a year ago and is depending on three junior college transfers for improvement. Surgery and defections have wiped out the tight end position.

Defensive strengths: A bulked-up Lenoy Jones heads up an active linebacking crew. Three-year starter Greg Evans is a hard-hitting strong safety who led the league in interceptions last year. Cornerback Rico Wesley can fly.

Defensive weaknesses: After the competent Royal West, the interior line is woefully lacking in size and experience. TCU has track speed in the secondary but gave up 24 TD passes a year ago. A repeat performance is likely.

Special teams: This is a real problem spot. Rudy Oliveira, a fourth-year walk-on, and redshirt freshman Brian Leinart will share the place-kicking duties. Neither has attempted a field goal in college. Punter Kevin Cordesman netted only 31.6 yards per kick.

Key to success: A better offense. TCU ranked 91st in Division I-A total offense last year and scored fewer than 14 points in six games. The defense needs some rest.

Sure signs of trouble: If the Frogs can't build any momentum from a soft early schedule and any of their top players gets



Rushing to stardom: Southern Methodist defensive end Chad Patton is fast becoming one of the premier linemen in the SWC.

hurt.

Coach Pat Sullivan says: "We need to get bigger up front and all over. We're still a young football team that has only nine seniors and seven juniors. We need to have a little success to breed a little confidence."

8 SMU

Coach: Tom Rossley (6-16, 2 years).

1992 record: 5-6. SWC: 2-5/16th.

Key losses: Russell Anderson, K; Korey Beard, WR; Jason Bednarz, LB; Cary Brabham, FS; Trey Cowan, OG; John DeVoss, WR; Curtis Eldridge, OT; Dan Freiburger, QB; Mike Henderson, LB; Rongea Hill, RB; Bill Kiely, LB; Uzo Okeke, OT; Marcello Simmons, CB; Matt Wisenbaker, C; Jason Wolf, WR.

Starters returning: Offense (2): Brian Berry, WR, 5-11/175, Sr.; Jeremy Stout, G, 6-1/285, Sr. Defense (5): Byron Bonds, T, 6-4/285, Sr.; Richie Butler, SS, 5-11/175, Sr.; Marcus Malonson, CB, 5-8/155, Sr.; Chad Patton, E, 6-2/255, Sr.; Byron Slaughter, E, 6-2/240, Sr. Kickers (2): Larry Israel, P, 6-0/185, Sr.; John Stewart, K, 5-11/185, Sr.

Other key returnees: Michael Artmore, CB/KR, Jr. (RS/knee); Vernon Edwards, DE, Sr.; Mark Eldred, QB, Soph.; Cagan Morgan, LB, Soph.; Cornell Parker, CB, Soph.; Mick Rossley, WR/PR, Jr.; Kevin Shepard, RB, Jr.; B.J. Stankovich, LB, Jr. (RS/academics); Adam Voyles, DE, Sr.; Rodney Watkins, DB, Jr.; Larry Wilson, WR, Jr.

Top newcomers: Ramon Flanigan, QB, Fr. (RS/thumb); Chris James, QB, Fr.

Schedule: Arkansas, Sept. 4; Wisconsin, Sept. 11; at Texas Christian, Sept. 25; at Missouri, Oct. 2; Baylor, Oct. 9; at Houston, Oct. 16; Texas (at San Antonio, Tex.), Oct. 23; at Texas A&M, Oct. 30; Rice, Nov. 6; Texas Tech, Nov. 13; at Navy, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Mustangs.

Site: Dallas.

Outlook: The Mustangs are coming off their biggest one-season turnaround since 1968. They won four more games than in 1991 and came within a 30-yard field goal of their first winning season since the NCAA death penalty of 1987-88. The carryover, however, could be limited, considering that Southern Methodist lost 30 seniors and has just one upperclassman among its top 22 offensive players.

Offensive strengths: Running back Kevin

Shepard should be more explosive than the departed Rongea Hill and could get 30 carries a game. Either Mark Eldred or Ramon Flanigan will be a more mobile quarterback than anyone who has taken a snap at SMU the last four years. Brian Berry paces a group of speedy wide receivers who can stretch the field.

Offensive weaknesses: Those receivers may stretch the field, but whether they'll have the ball with them is uncertain. Inexperience at quarterback could be a killer, and whoever plays the position had better be pretty mobile. The line returns only one starter.

Defensive strengths: End Chad Patton is fast becoming one of the premier linemen in the SWC. He has some help, too, in Byron Bonds and Byron Slaughter. SMU has a decent secondary that led the league in pass defense in 1992.

Defensive weaknesses: A big reason the Mustangs did so well against the pass was because they were so bad against the run. The loss of all three starting linebackers—two of whom combined for 868 career tackles—leaves this team vulnerable to the run again.

Special teams: Larry Israel was one of the SWC's top punters in the second half of last season. John Stewart has handled kickoffs for two seasons and has a strong leg, but he has yet to attempt a field goal in a game. Patton had four of SMU's six blocked kicks in 1992.

Keys to success: Finding some inside linebackers who can at least slow the run and a quarterback who doesn't have to spend all his time on the run.

Sure sign of trouble: If the inexperienced offensive linemen keep yelling, "Watch out!"

Coach Tom Rossley says: "We want to win more games than we lose, and we want to get in a bowl game. We still have a lot of skill people, we'll be faster and stronger, and I think we'll have a big-play offense." ■

SCOUTING THE SOUTHWEST

Ascending: Rice and Baylor. The Owls are coming off their first winning season since 1963 and have one of the nation's up-and-coming coaches in Fred Goldsmith. Chuck Reedy, Grant Teaff's successor at Baylor, should be able to parlay the Bears' second straight bowl trip and a great recruiting class into momentum for the mid-1990s.

Descending: Houston. The Cougars can score at will, but their defense is so bad opponents do the same. Houston yielded 40 points per game in league play in 1992, a disturbing trend that helped grease the skids for former coach John Jenkins and portends a third consecutive losing season.

Nightmare schedule: Texas. It's a wonder John Mackovic gets any sleep at all with the Longhorns facing a non-conference slate that includes Colorado, Syracuse, Louisville and Oklahoma and road games at Texas A&M and Houston.

Dream schedule: Rice. Although the Owls traded a game with Cincinnati to open the season at Ohio State, that swap does not excuse getting to play Texas Christian, Houston and non-league softies Tulane, Iowa State and Sam Houston State all at home.

Best matchup of the year: Texas A&M at Texas Tech, October 2. The Red Raiders came within a last-second field goal of beating the Aggies last year and three of the last four meetings between the teams have been decided by a total of nine points.

Worst matchup of the year: Houston at Michigan, September 25. One year after being scalded, 61-7, in Ann Arbor, the Cougars return to the scene of the crime.

Shocker of the year: Rice hasn't beaten Texas in Austin since Lyndon Johnson was president (1965), but it'll happen again on October 2.

Bowl bound: Texas A&M is a lead-pipe cinch—unless the NCAA intervenes. Baylor is a strong bet, Texas Tech has no excuse not to, and Rice and Texas should be on the fringe.

Biggest shoes to fill: Texas A&M linebacker Marcus Buckley's. Steve Solari may be first in line to replace the All-America sackmaster, followed by Antonio Shorter and Keith Mitchell.

Most underrated player: Lance Teichelman, NG, Texas A&M. He doesn't look like a great athlete, but he's versatile enough to play noseguard, tackle or end, and few players are as intense.

Impact newcomers: Tyrone Brooks, NT, Texas Tech, Jr. (JC); Donovan Greer, CB, Texas A&M, Fr.; Chris James, QB, SMU, Fr.; Sean Johnson, NT, Texas Tech, Soph. (transfer/Hawaii); Ndukwe Kalu, LB, Rice, Fr.; Leeland McElroy, RB,

Texas A&M, Fr. (RS); Keith Mitchell, LB, Texas A&M, Fr. (RS); Shea Morenz, QB, Texas, Fr. (RS); Colin Scrivener, DL, Houston, Jr. (JC); Ryan Tucker, TE, Texas Christian, Fr.; Bryant Westbrook, CB,

Texas, Fr.

Coach of the year: Tom Rossley, SMU. The Mustangs improved four games in the win column and came within a missed field goal of their first winning season since 1986. If SMU finishes 5-6 again—after the

loss of 30 seniors (15 starters)—Rossley will be canonized.

Coach on the hot seat: Following the forced resignation of Jenkins at Houston, there aren't any.

Best bets: Redshirt freshman Shea Morenz will throw 12 interceptions in his first three games, whereupon Texas fans will wonder whatever happened to

Peter Gardere. . . . Rice quarterback Bert Emanuel will be among the SWC's rushing leaders. . . . Texas A&M will win the SWC title easily and score three points in a Cotton Bowl loss. . . . New Baylor Coach Chuck Reedy will punch a reporter for calling him Grant. . . . Texas Tech wide receiver Lloyd Hill will become the league's career leader in receiving yardage and make a ton of acrobatic catches. . . . Rodney Thomas will supplant the NCAA-troubled Greg Hill as Texas A&M's leading candidate for the Heisman Trophy. . . . Texas will beat Oklahoma for the fifth straight year. . . . Houston quarterback Jimmy Klingler will throw 45 touchdown passes. . . . Texas A&M cornerback Aaron Glenn will be a No. 1 draft choice in 1994.

Odds and ends: Texas enters this season third on the NCAA's all-time victory list with 682. The Longhorns trail Michigan (731) and Notre Dame (712) and are one win ahead of Alabama. . . . Baylor's new offensive coordinator, Jack Crowe, was fired as the head coach at Arkansas last year after the Razorbacks lost to The Citadel in their season opener. . . . Southern Methodist's new receivers coach, Vincent White, was the top pass catcher in the nation in 1982 as John Elway's favorite target at Stanford. . . . A Houston receiver has led the NCAA in pass receptions the last seven seasons. . . . Texas Tech's Lloyd Hill and Byron Morris last season became the third wide receiver/running back tandem in NCAA history to each have more than 1,200 yards in the same season. The others were Oklahoma State's Hart Lee Dykes and Barry Sanders in 1988 and Pacific's Aaron Turner and Ryan Benjamin in 1991. . . . One of the things that did Jenkins in were charges from former players and a former assistant that he held practices in excess of the NCAA-mandated 20-hour-a-week limit. Jenkins also was accused of splicing scenes of topless women into some of his football films. The former coach, however, said there was "nothing to it."

—KIRK BOHLS

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive line:
Texas A&M

Best offensive backfield:
Texas A&M

Best backup quarterback:
Josh LaRocca, Rice

Best wide receivers:
Texas Tech

Best clutch receiver:
Lloyd Hill, Texas Tech

Best defensive line:
Texas A&M

Best hitting defensive lineman:
Sam Adams, Texas A&M

Best linebackers:
Texas A&M

Best hitting linebacker:
Ryan McCoy, Houston

Best secondary:
Texas A&M

Best hitting defensive back:
Greg Evans, Texas Christian

Best kicking game:
Texas Tech

Best kick-coverage unit:
Southern Methodist

Best coaching staff:
Texas A&M

Best coach:
R.C. Slocum, Texas A&M

Best Heisman candidate:
Lloyd Hill, SE, Texas Tech

Best pro prospect:
Aaron Glenn, CB, Texas A&M

RETURNING LEADERS

Rushing: Byron Morris, Texas Tech, 116.3 yds./game (242 att., 1,279 yds., 10 TDs, 5.3 avg.).

Passing efficiency: Bert Emanuel, Rice, 139.2 rating pts. (179 att., 94 comp., 1,558 yds., 11 TDs).

Total offense: Jimmy Klingler, Houston, 342.6 yds./game (-50 yds. rushing, 3,818 yds. passing, 3,768 total yds.).

Receiving: Sherman Smith, Houston, 9.4 rec./game (103 rec., 923 yds., 6 TDs, 9.0 avg.).

Scoring: Greg Hill, Texas A&M, 8.5 pts./game (17 TDs, 0 PATs, 0 FGs, 102 pts.).

Punting: Robert King, Texas Tech, 42.6 avg. (53 punts, 2,256 yds.).

Punt returns: Jason McDonald, Houston, 11.8 avg. (10 att., 118 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Derrick Cullors, Texas Christian, 25.7 avg. (9 att., 231 yds., 1 TD).

Field goals: Scott Szeredy, Texas, 1.5 FG/game (16/21 FGs, 76%).

Interceptions: Greg Evans, Texas Christian, 0.64 int./game (7 int., 121 yds., 0 TDs).



Ball hawk: Texas Christian's Greg Evans paced the league in interceptions last year.

Bowl bids, improving 'D' bode well for the WAC

By TOM KRASOVIC

San Diego Union-Tribune

Before we raise a toast to the Western Athletic Conference for last year's champagne season, please keep in mind two sobering facts: The WAC's lesser teams remain deeply suspect and most of its defenses stop few opponents.

But facts are facts, and this far-flung league, enhanced by creative coaches and terrific skill-position players, sent more teams to bowls last season than the Atlantic Coast (four), Big Eight (three) and Big Ten (three) conferences.

Five—count 'em, five—WAC clubs went bowling. "Probably the best one didn't even make a bowl," Brigham Young Coach LaVell Edwards said, "and that was San Diego (State)."

There's more of the same to come, WAC coaches contend. "If you look at it, the teams in the conference were fairly young last year, so I don't think it was a one-shot deal at all," said Hawaii's Bob Wagner, one of two WAC coaches to win bowl games last year.

Edwards, explaining the WAC's improvement, cited several factors:

- Fresno State, which joined the WAC last year, returns several standouts from a team that led the nation in scoring for the second consecutive season and thumped Southern California in the Freedom Bowl.

- Improved defense, a trend that, while slow to evolve, should continue with the arrival of former Miami (Fla.) defensive coordinator Sonny Lubick as head coach at Colorado State and San Diego State's hiring of highly regarded coordinator Del Wight.

- National scholarship cutbacks that have funneled more marquee prep players to the WAC.

- Ambitious scheduling, best evidenced by Brigham Young, which plays host to Notre Dame in October.

Edwards didn't mention that a few of his WAC opponents have bolstered their rosters with Southern Californians who couldn't gain admittance to Southern Cal, which tightened its academic standards during the late 1980s.

"More than one event, it's a series of these things that have helped build up the conference slowly but quite assuredly," Edwards said. "We're rising up the ladder a little bit by a little bit."

Whoever wins the WAC championship this year can expect national attention. One of three teams to win a piece of the WAC title last season, Hawaii, which sped past Illinois in the Holiday Bowl, placed 20th in the final polls conducted by THE SPORTING NEWS and the Associated Press. Fresno State wound up 23rd and 24th in the two polls, and BYU might have won greater acclaim except for injuries to three quarterbacks.

Individually, with Marshall Faulk's return to budding San Diego State and the emergence of Fresno State quarterback Trent Dilfer, the WAC will grab a noteworthy



**TSN
PREDICTIONS**

ORDER OF FINISH

1. BRIGHAM YOUNG
2. SAN DIEGO STATE
3. FRESNO STATE
4. HAWAII
5. UTAH
6. AIR FORCE
7. WYOMING
8. COLORADO STATE
9. NEW MEXICO
10. TEXAS-EL PASO

share of Heisman Trophy hype. Though he was assessing his team, Fresno State Coach Jim Sweeney's remarks apply to the WAC's elite squads. "I don't think we have to think about ourselves sneaking up on people anymore," Sweeney said. "It's not the David-



Near perfect: Brigham Young robo-receiver Eric Drage is almost flawless at running routes and catching passes.

and-Goliath picture that we might have once had against nationally recognized opponents."

1 BRIGHAM YOUNG

Coach: LaVell Edwards (191-67-3, 21 years).
1992 record: 8-5 (lost to Kansas in Aloha Bowl).
WAC: 6-2/T1st.

Key losses: Scott Brumfield, OT; Brad Clark, SS; Derwin Gray, FS; Ryan Hancock, QB; Shad Hansen, LB; Brad Hunter, P; David Lauder, K; Kevin Nicoll, DE; Garry Pay, C; Byron Rex, TE; Otis Sterling, WR.
Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Eric Drage, WR, 6-1/180, Sr.; Jim Edwards, G, 6-4/250, Jr.; Mike Empey, T, 6-7/290, Sr.; Kalin Hall, FB, 5-8/195, Sr.; Evan Pilgrim, G, 6-4/275, Jr.; Jamal Willis, HB, 6-3/215, Jr. **Defense (7):** Randy Brock, T, 6-6/265, Jr.; Lenny Gomes, NG, 6-2/265, Sr.; Nathan Hall, LB, 6-4/220, Sr.; Todd Herget, LB, 6-3/230, Sr.; Patrick Mitchell, CB, 6-0/160, Jr.; Greg Pitts, T, 6-5/275, Jr.; Vic Tarleton, CB, 5-9/175, Sr.
Kickers: None.

Other key returnees: Tyler Anderson, WR, Sr.; Steve Christensen, HB, Sr.; Frank Christianson, SS, Sr.; Steve Clements, QB, Jr.; Bryce Doman, WR, Jr.; Travis Hall, DE, Jr.; Hema Heimuli, FB, Soph.; Joe Herrick, P, Sr.; Eli Herring, OT, Jr. (RS/knee); Brian Hughes, LB, Jr. (RS); Micah Matsuzaki, WR, Sr. (RS); Casey Mazzotta, FS, Sr.; Tim Nowatzke, WR, Jr.; Terance Saluone, TE, Soph.; Ron Simmons, C, Sr.; John Walsh, QB, Soph. (RS/shoulder); Tom Young, QB, Jr.

Top newcomers: Cory Cook, FS, Jr. (JC); Jack Damuni, CB, Jr. (JC); Ella (Elias) Faupula, OL, Jr. (JC); William Knight, OL, Jr. (JC); John Raass, DL, Jr. (JC); Troy Stoddard, C, Jr. (JC); Jared Tuione, OL, Jr. (JC); Mike Fuimaono Ulufale, DE, Jr. (JC); Marty Van Roosendaal, OL, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: At New Mexico, Sept. 4; Hawaii, Sept. 11; at Colorado State, Sept. 18; Air Force, Sept. 25; at UCLA, Oct. 9; Notre Dame, Oct. 16; Fresno State, Oct. 23; at Utah State, Oct. 30; at San Diego State, Nov. 11; Utah, Nov. 20; Texas-El Paso, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Cougars.
Site: Provo, Utah.

Outlook: After weathering a stormy schedule and an injury wave that sidelined its top three quarterbacks, BYU has the experience and balance to represent the WAC for the 10th time in the Holiday Bowl. Coach LaVell Edwards believes this team can play as well as—or better than—his 1984 national championship squad. But Edwards, entering his 22nd season at BYU, expected to suffer a blow in June when quarterback Ryan Hancock was to sign a baseball contract and forgo football. Three quarterbacks who have started return, but Hancock outplayed all three last year.

Offensive strengths: Running backs Jamal Willis and Kalin Hall spear defenses near and wide. Expert at catching outlet passes, Willis causes matchup problems for linebackers. Robo-receiver Eric Drage is nearly flawless at running routes and catching passes. Tall John Walsh, the projected starter at quarterback, owns a fair passing touch and decent scrambling skills. Steve Clements and Tom Young provide depth. In all, another surgeon-like BYU offense.

Offensive weaknesses: The slow-footed line, which loses three all-conference performers, leaked often last season. Backfield maneuvers need work, too; botched handoffs led to freak shoulder injuries to both Walsh and Clements.

Continued

TSN

PRESEASON ALL-WESTERN ATHLETIC TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Marshall
Faulk,
RB, San Diego State

DEFENSE



Lenny
Gomes,
DL, Brigham Young

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

Tupu Alualu, RB, Hawaii

DEFENSE:

Fred Harris, E, San Diego State

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	DARNAY SCOTT, San Diego State	6-3/185	Jr.
WR	RYAN YARBOROUGH, Wyoming	6-2/188	Sr.
TE	MIKE JONES, Wyoming	6-2/235	Sr.
T	ELI HERRING, Brigham Young	6-6/310	Jr.
T	PAT MEYER, Colorado State	6-2/275	Jr.
C	BOB COX, Colorado State	6-1/278	Sr.
G	CARLSON LEOMITI, San Diego State	6-3/340	Sr.
G	PETER PALE, Hawaii	6-3/286	Sr.
QB	TRENT DILFER, Fresno State	6-5/225	Jr.
RB	MARSHALL FAULK, San Diego State	5-10/200	Jr.
RB	RON RIVERS, Fresno State	5-9/190	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	RANDY BROCK, Brigham Young	6-6/265	Jr.
DL	JAMAL DUFF, San Diego State	6-7/250	Jr.
DL	LUTHER ELLISS, Utah	6-5/256	Jr.
DL	LENNY GOMES, Brigham Young	6-2/265	Sr.
LB	TODD HERGET, Brigham Young	6-3/230	Sr.
LB	BRIAN SCHNEIDER, Colorado State	6-1/215	Sr.
LB	BARRON WORTHAM, Texas-El Paso	6-0/230	Sr.
DB	JAMES BURTON, Fresno State	5-9/180	Sr.
DB	DARRELL LEWIS, San Diego State	6-0/205	Sr.
DB	GREG MYERS, Colorado State	6-2/184	Soph.
DB	SAM WATSON, Fresno State	5-11/190	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	MARSHALL YOUNG, Texas-El Paso	5-10/185	Soph.
P	DEREK MAHONEY, Fresno State	5-11/170	Sr.
AP	DARNAY SCOTT, San Diego State	6-3/185	Jr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	ERIC DRAGE, Brigham Young	6-1/180	Sr.
WR	MALCOLM SEABRON, Fresno State	6-0/180	Sr.
TE	MARC ZIEGLER, San Diego State	6-3/235	Jr.
T	RON COLLINS, Fresno State	6-5/295	Sr.
T	KENNY HALL, Fresno State	6-5/295	Sr.
C	MIKE ALEXANDER, San Diego State	6-3/265	Sr.
G	CODY KELLY, Wyoming	6-5/290	Sr.
G	OMAR LAWRENCE, Texas-El Paso	6-0/287	Jr.
QB	MICHAEL CARTER, Hawaii	5-10/211	Sr.
RB	KALIN HALL, Brigham Young	5-8/195	Sr.
RB	JAMAL WILLIS, Brigham Young	6-3/215	Jr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	LA'ROI GLOVER, San Diego State	6-2/270	Soph.
DL	CURTIS SUTTON, Air Force	6-4/245	Sr.
DL	KURT WHITEHEAD, Wyoming	6-3/235	Sr.
DL	TY WILLIAMS, Wyoming	6-4/245	Jr.
LB	TULI MATEIALONA, New Mexico	6-1/227	Sr.
LB	SHAWN SMITH, San Diego State	6-3/235	Sr.
LB	STEWART WILLIAMS, Hawaii	5-11/224	Sr.
DB	TOMMY JONES, Fresno State	5-9/170	Sr.
DB	ANDRE STRODE, Colorado State	5-8/171	Jr.
DB	MARK SWANSON, Utah	5-10/184	Sr.
DB	RAY WILSON, New Mexico	6-1/199	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	DEREK MAHONEY, Fresno State	5-11/170	Sr.
P	BRIAN GRAGERT, Wyoming	6-1/220	Soph.

Defensive strengths: The lone WAC unit to allow fewer than five yards per play last season, BYU fields considerable frontal beef, including run-stuffing linemen Lenny Gomes and Randy Brock and sure-tackling Todd Herget at linebacker. Improving cornerback Patrick Mitchell, the WAC's high-hurdles champion, gives lumbering BYU a chance to slow an array of elite receivers.

Defensive weaknesses: It's not true that these guys move as quickly as the nearby Wasatch Mountains. But sometimes one wonders, including perhaps Edwards, who again is importing speed from the junior colleges.

Special teams: Gone are Brad Hunter, who averaged more than 47 yards per punt, and David Lauder, who kicked 13 field goals. Edwards wasn't satisfied with their replacements during spring drills. Hema Heimuli, who returned a kickoff for a touchdown in the Aloha Bowl, should add life to BYU's slow-footed return teams.

Key to success: Somewhat erratic early last season before getting hurt, Walsh needs to start strongly and reduce the chance of a quarterback controversy.

Sure sign of trouble: If the ranks get thinned by a brutal October stretch against Fresno State, UCLA and Notre Dame.

Coach LaVell Edwards says: "It could be a pretty good ball club. We have a chance. You never know. I'm not even totally sure the '84 team was the best team I've had. They just won all the games. We do have some pretty good firepower offensively, and I still feel good about our quarterbacks even without Hancock."

2

SAN DIEGO STATE

Coach: Al Luginbill (25-19-3, 4 years).

1992 record: 5-5-1. WAC: 5-3/4th.

Key losses: Robert Griffith, LB; Joe Heinz, OG; Tracey Mao, LB; Tony Nichols, OT; Scott Oatsvall, P; Damon Pieri, CB; Gary Taylor, CB; Andy Trakas, K.



Danger! Darnay Scott is part of a combustible San Diego State tandem.

Starters returning: Offense (9): Mike Alexander, C, 6-3/265, Sr.; Marshall Faulk, RB, 5-10/200, Jr.; Chris Finch, T, 6-6/290, Soph.; Carlson Leomiti, G, 6-3/340, Sr.; David Lowery, QB, 6-0/200, Sr.; Ray Peterson, WR, 5-8/170, Soph.; Darnay Scott, SE, 6-3/185, Jr.; Alex Semenik, TE, 6-2/250, Sr.; Keith Williams, FL, 5-11/175, Sr. Defense (7): Jamal Duff, E, 6-7/250, Jr.; George Glaze, E, 6-5/255, Sr.; La'Roi Glover, NT, 6-2/270, Soph.; Chris Johnson, SS, 6-1/200, Sr.; Darrell Lewis, FS, 6-0/195, Sr.; Mark Roberts, LB, 6-1/230, Jr.; Shawn Smith, LB, 6-3/235, Sr. Kickers: None.

Other key returnees: Sebastian Glaze, NT, Sr.; Tim Gutierrez, QB, Jr.; DeAndre Maxwell, FL, Soph.; Tyrone Morrison, DE, Sr.; Wayne Pittman, RB, Jr.; Ramondo Stallings, DE, Sr.; Eric Sutton, CB, Jr.; Marc Ziegler, TE, Jr.; Louie Zumstein, OT, Jr.

Top newcomers: Scott Blade, LB, Jr. (JC); Dwight Chornomud, LB, Jr. (JC); James Curtis, RB, Fr.; Scott Hammond, WR, Fr. (RS); Fred Harris, DE, Fr.; Marlon Manassa, RB, Fr. (RS); Aaron Pruitt, LB, Jr. (JC); Craig Weems, DB, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Cal State Northridge, Sept. 4; at California, Sept. 11; at Air Force, Sept. 18; Minnesota, Sept. 25; UCLA, Sept. 30; at Hawaii, Oct. 9; Colorado State, Oct. 16; New Mexico, Oct. 23; at Utah, Oct. 30; Brigham Young, Nov. 11; at Fresno State, Nov. 20; Wyoming, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Aztecs.

Site: San Diego.

Outlook: For the second straight fall, Al Luginbill presides over perhaps the most talented team in school history and probably the fastest. The Aztecs were a bust last year (5-5-1), but they expect to boom in '93. San Diego State returns more lettermen than any WAC team, including nine starters to an offense that averaged 30.4 points per game. Perhaps no other team in the country boasts a more combustible tandem than Marshall Faulk and Darnay Scott. San Diego State's defense bled away Holiday Bowl berths the

last two Novembers, but this revived unit actually could form the WAC's top defense. Newcomer Del Wight, whose expertise helped Wyoming win two WAC titles, had this speedy bunch working in concert during the spring. If the streaky Aztecs steady their game, they'll reach their second Holiday Bowl and the Top 25.

Offensive strengths: Speed galore. Plenty of muscle up front. More experience than any unit in the WAC. Need we mention Marshall Faulk?

Offensive weaknesses: Blown pass routes, drops and streaky passing hindered this bunch, which consistently failed to complete intermediate passes and block the perimeter for Faulk.

Defensive strengths: Wight, who is more experienced than any of the Aztecs' coaches including Luginbill, switched to a 4-3 scheme that pleased many players. The happy linemen include budding stars La'Roi Glover and Jamal Duff. Safety Darrell Lewis, a head-knocker deluxe, and speedy linebacker Shawn Smith are sure to make big plays. National Football League scouts will watch fifth-year senior Ramondo Stallings, an end who is 6-foot-7 and a muscular 288 pounds.

Defensive weaknesses: Slipshod tackling. A mysterious but persistent injury bug. Bruised psyches.

Special teams: A big field-goal miss against Southern Cal, poor tackling on kick-offs, line-drive punts and penalties on returns all conspired to shoot the Aztecs in the foot. Luginbill responded by creating a full-time special-teams coaching position. With a block or two, return men Scott and Ray Peterson will go the distance.

Keys to success: Keeping quarterback David Lowery intact and paying greater attention to detail.

Sure sign of trouble: Injuries to Lowery or Lewis.

Coach Al Luginbill says: "We have talent. I'm a little concerned about how we're going to put that talent to use. Are we going to be a yo-yo team, emotionally and mentally, or are we going to put that talent to use?"

3 FRESNO STATE

Coach: Jim Sweeney (124-47-2, 15 years; 181-126-3 overall, 28 years).

1992 record: 9-4 (beat Southern Cal in Freedom Bowl). WAC: 6-2/T1st.

Key losses: Jesse Hardwick, OT; Lorenzo Neal, FB; Earl Oliver, DE; Brian Porter, CB; Zack Rix, NG; Nick Serfas, DE; Billy Scott, C; Marty Thompson, TE; Wendell Valentine, LB.

Starters returning: Offense (7): Josh Coldiron, G, 6-3/270, Sr.; Ron Collins, T, 6-5/295, Sr.; Trent Dilfer, QB, 6-5/225, Jr.; Rus Hartmann, G, 6-3/275, Sr.; Ron Rivers, TB, 5-9/190, Sr.; Malcolm Seabron, SE, 6-0/180, Sr.; Tydus Winans, SE, 5-11/180, Sr. **Defense (5):** James Burton, CB, 5-9/180, Sr.; Johnny Johnson, FS, 6-2/195, Sr.; Chris Peters, LB, 6-1/223, Sr.; Gene Smith, LB, 6-4/220, Soph.; Sam Watson, SS, 5-11/190, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Derek Mahoney, K/P, 5-11/170, Sr.

Other key returnees: James Allison, TB, Sr.; Jeff Arnold, TE, Jr.; Brad Bell, DE, Sr.; Jamie Christian, FB, Jr.; Anthony Daigle, TB, Sr.; Ben Drati, LB, Jr.; Demetrius Edwards, NG, Jr.; Kenny Hall, OT, Sr. (RS/knee); Lee Harris, SE, Sr.; Charlie Jones, FL, Soph.; Tommy Jones, CB, Sr.; Chris Rockwell, DE, Jr.; Michael Ross, FL, Sr.

Top newcomers: Jeremy Brion, FS, Soph. (JC);



Good target: Malcolm Seabron is Fresno State's best wideout since Henry Ellard.

David Dunn, WR, Jr. (JC); Chris Giannetta, OT, Jr. (JC); Mark Gray, RB, Jr. (JC); Larry Harris, FB, Fr.; Dion Laffitte, LB, Fr.; Ron Morrisette, LB, Fr.; Ron Papazian, LB, Jr. (transfer/Pacific); Shatony Sargeant, DL, Fr.; Adarryll Thomas, DL, Jr. (JC); Lance Thomas, CB, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: At Baylor, Sept. 4; Oregon State, Sept. 11; at New Mexico, Sept. 18; Utah State, Sept. 25; at Colorado State, Oct. 9; Air Force, Oct. 16; at Brigham Young, Oct. 23; at Wyoming, Oct. 30; Texas-El Paso, Nov. 6; Hawaii, Nov. 13; San Diego State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Bulldogs.
Site: Fresno, Calif.

Outlook: After the Bulldogs' bumper crop of nine victories last season (including the rout of Southern Cal), they're delirious in Raisin Country. Coach Jim Sweeney speculates about a future national championship. Tailback Ron Rivers says his teammates talk of reaching the Orange Bowl. (Yo, Fresno State, WAC champions are contractually bound to the Holiday Bowl.) A more plausible scenario: Fresno State, juiced by one of the nation's best offenses but hampered by a scrawny defense, again will turn most games into shootouts, winning enough to challenge for another share of the WAC title.

Offensive strengths: Quarterback Trent Dilfer, who is big, smart, tough and mobile, stretches defenses with long passes and stings them with laser shots. Malcolm Seabron, the ace of a top-flight receiver corps, is Fresno State's best wideout since Henry Ellard, and running backs Rivers and Anthony Daigle combine with a huge line to lay the groundwork. Remember this name: David Dunn. He's an April junior college signee who expects to lend inside pass-catching punch.

Offensive weaknesses: Fresno State won't fully offset the loss of fullback Lorenzo Neal. Dilfer, who weighed 245 pounds by season's end, needs to snack a tad less and also become more accurate on his long passes.

Defensive strengths: This suspect unit is

strong in the back, where free safety Johnny Johnson directs a swift quartet. Much will be expected from inside linebacker Chris Peters, who sat out spring drills because of a shoulder injury, and perhaps even freshman Ron Morrisette, an outside linebacker who signed in April.

Defensive weaknesses: The line, small and soft, might get pancaked, particularly if an undistinguished group of linebackers fails to progress.

Special teams: Derek Mahoney, who will both kick and punt, might have the best leg in the WAC, and Sweeney's punt-return trickery created a huge touchdown against San Diego State. But the coaches are chancing a lot by entrusting two tasks to Mahoney.

Key to success: A little defense will go a long way.

Sure sign of trouble: If opponents box up running backs Rivers and Daigle.

Coach Jim Sweeney says: "We've got to play on a level that exemplifies big-time football. If we don't, we're back to the embarrassment of defeat."

4 HAWAII

Coach: Bob Wagner (45-27-2, 6 years).

1992 record: 11-2 (beat Illinois in Holiday Bowl). WAC: 6-2/T1st.

Key losses: Bryan Addison, DB; Darrick Branch, WR; Jason Elam, K/P; Eddie Kealoha, SB; Louis Randall, LB; Walter Santiago, DB; Travis Sims, RB; Junior Tagosi, DL; Maa Tanuvasa, DL; Doug Vailoti, OL.

Starters returning: Offense (7): Lene Amosa, L, 6-0/280, Sr.; Johann Bouit, WR, 5-10/175, Jr.; Michael Carter, QB, 5-10/211, Sr.; Travis Fonseca, L, 6-3/275, Sr.; Brian Gordon, SB, 6-1/200, Sr.; Kelly McGill, L, 6-1/250, Jr.; Peter Pale, L, 6-3/286, Sr. **Defense (6):** Al Aliipule, LB, 6-3/245, Sr.; Taase Faumui, L, 6-4/270, Sr.; Daryl Green, DB, 5-11/180, Sr.; Demitres Henderson, DB, 5-9/165, Soph.; Zac Odom, DB, 5-9/170, Jr.; Stewart Williams, LB, 5-11/224, Sr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returnees: Ivin Jasper, SB, 6-1/195, Sr.; Calvin Melvin, RB, 5-9/195, Sr.

Top newcomers: Tupu Alualu, RB, Soph. (transfer/Oregon); Dan Dougherty, DL, Jr. (transfer/Texas Christian); David Tuifus, DL, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Middle Tennessee State, Sept. 4; at Brigham Young, Sept. 11; Kent State, Sept. 18; Texas-El Paso, Sept. 25; at New Mexico, Oct. 2; San Diego State, Oct. 9; at Wyoming, Oct. 23; Utah, Nov. 6; at Fresno State, Nov. 13; Air Force, Nov. 20; California, Nov. 27; Tulane, Dec. 4.

Nickname: Rainbows.
Site: Honolulu.

Outlook: Hawaii will be hard pressed to match last year's resourceful squad, which had a knack for making big plays and benefited from a run of good health. The creative offense again should score big, but the loss of their three best defenders and ace kicker/punter Jason Elam makes the Rainbows a long shot for a return to the Holiday Bowl.

Offensive strengths: Hawaii's spread offense, which exploits opposing defenses with audibles at the line, produced the nation's No. 2 rushing average last year at 293.3 yards per game. Quarterback Michael Carter, whose passing isn't pretty, fools opponents. Short, a bit pudgy and lacking great speed, Carter succeeds with shrewd option reads and deft ballhandling. Back are four overachieving linemen who excel at run

Continued

blocking.

Offensive weaknesses: The line needed lots of help on passing downs and still didn't protect Carter very well. It won't be easy to replace fullback Travis Sims, who rushed for 1,498 yards, but Wagner is impressed with slower-but-shifter Calvin Melvin.

Defensive strengths: Cornerback Zac Odom, who excelled in the Holiday Bowl, will bolster a puny secondary, but the hero is tackle Taase Faumui. As Faumui gets double-teamed, linebackers Al Aliipule and Stewart Williams must make big plays for this undersized crew.

Defensive weaknesses: The Rainbows are small and not especially fast or deep. Their 3-4 scheme requires a standout nose-guard, but this year's team won't have Maa Tanuvasa, who graduated. Dan Dougherty, a transfer from Texas Christian who is 24 years old, will try to replace Tanuvasa. Man-handled by San Diego State and Fresno State, this group needs to hit the weight room.

Special teams: A drop-off is likely. Elam, perhaps the best special-teams player in the country, is gone, as is the WAC's top return man, Darrick Branch.

Key to success: The coaches must retain their magical wands and the depth-shy Rainbows must remain healthy.

Sure sign of trouble: Injuries to any of their best defenders, particularly Faumui, could spell doom for the undermanned Rainbows.

Coach Bob Wagner says: "We will be solid on defense, but we're certainly not in as good shape there as we are offensively. I meant it sincerely last year when I said I really felt proud to represent the league in the Holiday Bowl, and I think the league will be better. In this business, you're only as good as your last season."



Mighty Ute: Utah's defensive line is augmented by powerful Blaine Berger.

5 UTAH

Coach: Ron McBride (17-18, 3 years).

1992 record: 6-6 (lost to Washington State in Copper Bowl). **WAC:** 4-4/75th.

Key losses: Reggie Alston, LB; Dave Chaytors, DL; Preston Christensen, LB; Russ Dailey, OT; Mike DeHoog, OT; Frank Dolce, QB; Tom McNitt, OG; Scott Murry, TE; Pita Tonga, LB; Mark Walejko, DE; Sean Williams, WR; Steve Young, P.

Starters returning: **Offense** (6): Jamal Anderson, FB, 6-1/235, Sr.; Greg Hooks, WR, 6-2/195, Sr.; Henry Lusk, WR, 6-1/230, Jr.; Roy Ma'afala, G, 6-2/269, Jr.; Lance Scott, C, 6-3/275, Jr.; Keith Williams, RB, 5-8/189, Sr. **Defense** (6): Blaine Berger, T, 6-5/278, Sr.; Luther Ellis, E, 6-5/256, Jr.; Kareem Leary, CB, 6-1/175, Sr.; Ed Miller, FS, 6-4/214, Sr.; Sharrieff Shah, SS, 5-11/197, Sr.; Mark Swanson, CB, 5-10/184, Sr. **Kickers** (1): Chris Yergensen, K, 6-1/169, Sr.

Other key returns: Neil Aoga, QB, Soph., Ed Castillo, OG, Sr.; Jason Jones, P, Jr.; Pierre Jones, RB, Sr.; Jeff Kirkman, DB, Jr.; Mike McCoy, QB, Jr.; Bryan Rowley, WR, Sr. (RS/ankle).

Top newcomers: Ricky Carrigan, WR, Soph. (JC); Harold Lusk, QB, Fr. (RS); Nick Petronis, LB, Jr. (JC); Mark Rexford, LB, Jr. (JC); Jason Stanley, LB, Jr. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton); Chad Ventriglia, OT, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: At Arizona State, Sept. 4; Utah State, Sept. 11; at Kansas, Sept. 18; at Wyoming, Sept. 25; Idaho, Oct. 2; New Mexico, Oct. 9; at Texas-El Paso, Oct. 16; Colorado State, Oct. 23; San Diego State, Oct. 30; at Hawaii, Nov. 6; Air Force, Nov. 13; at Brigham Young, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Utes.

Site: Salt Lake City.

Outlook: Hired four years ago, Coach Ron McBride got Utah into its first postseason game since 1964. The Utes made a fair showing before losing in the Copper Bowl to Washington State. McBride, who exudes stability, has improved Utah in tiny parts. The defense, awful when McBride arrived, isn't great but should keep Utah close, and the offense shows signs of becoming more balanced. Utah could become this year's Hawaii if it makes a few big plays and remains healthy. But the Utes also could finish near the cellar if they fail to develop at quarterback, the offensive line and linebacker.

Offensive strengths: Former All-WAC receiver Bryan Rowley, who missed almost all of last season because of a broken ankle, showed no ill effects during spring drills and gives Utah a go-to ace. Only sketchy blocking impairs the running backs, who have both power (235-pound Jamal Anderson) and dash (Pierre Jones and Keith Williams).

Offensive weaknesses: No quarterbacks dazzled in the spring drills, with Mike McCoy running the first team mostly by virtue of his experience. Third-year sophomore Neil Aoga has a strong arm but is untested. Slow and shallow in the line, Utah might struggle to defuse backfield pressure and keep its quarterbacks healthy.

Defensive strengths: Well-schooled safety Sharrieff Shah and cornerback Mark Swanson return to the WAC's most experienced secondary, which allowed a league-low nine touchdown passes last season. Back, too, are powerful linemen Luther Ellis and Blaine Berger.

Defensive weaknesses: The coaching staff got caught with its pants down at linebacker, where the top seven players moved on. Spongy Utah allowed a WAC-worst 228 yards rushing per game last season.

Special teams: Kicker Chris Yergensen may need to regain his confidence after his

nightmarish Copper Bowl, in which he missed a 20-yard field goal that would have tied Washington State. The WAC's most accurate kicker from within 40 yards, Yergensen missed six of seven from the 40 and beyond last year. Punter Jason Jones, who clouted 'em during the spring, replaces strong-legged Steve Young, who averaged 40.9 yards per punt.

Key to success: Like so many WAC teams, Utah must get more oomph up front and stay healthy.

Sure sign of trouble: If none of the quarterbacks improves during August drills.

Coach Ron McBride says: "The players themselves expect more this year. Once an attitude prevails, it's more than just shoving it down their throats. They see what's out there. They see what's it's like to go to a bowl."

6 AIR FORCE

Coach: Fisher DeBerry (72-38-1, 9 years).

1992 record: 7-5 (lost to Mississippi in Liberty Bowl). **WAC:** 4-4/5th.

Key losses: Alex Armour, SS; Chris Baker, NG; Jarvis Baker, QB; Jason Bowers, LB; Eldrick Hill, FS; Scott Hufford, WR; Chris James, DT; Grant Johnson, LB; Carlton McDonald, CB; Mark Moody, LB; Rob Nelson, OT; Mike Rodgers, CB; Vergil Simpson, LB; Peter Wilkie, TE.

Starters returning: **Offense** (7): Chad Mathis, T, 6-5/265, Sr.; Erik Mitchell, C, 6-6/265, Sr.; Obasi Onuoha, HB, 5-10/175, Sr.; Joe Pastorello, FB, 5-11/192, Sr.; Rob Peragine, G, 6-4/255, Sr.; Jim Ramsey, G, 6-4/280, Sr.; Wayne Young, HB, 6-0/218, Sr. **Defense** (1): Curtis Sutton, T, 6-4/245, Sr. **Kickers** (1): Chris MacInnis, K/P, 5-11/182, Sr.

Other key returns: Mike Black, LB, Sr.; Rod Melzer, NG, Sr.; Matt Newby, DT, Sr.; Steven Russ, LB, Jr.; Scott Teigen, QB, Sr.; Brian Watkins, CB, Jr.

Top newcomers: None.

Schedule: Indiana State, Sept. 4; at Colorado State, Sept. 11; San Diego State, Sept. 18; at Brigham Young, Sept. 25; Wyoming, Oct. 2; at Navy, Oct. 9; at Fresno State, Oct. 16; The Citadel, Oct. 23; at Utah, Oct. 30; Army, Nov. 6; Texas-El Paso, Nov. 13; at Hawaii, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Falcons.

Site: Colorado Springs, Colo.

Outlook: Poor little Air Force. Ten starters, including big-play cornerback Carlton McDonald, are gone from a sturdy defense. The Pentagon is cutting back pilot slots. And Air Force football players, unlike most opponents, must take draining classes like aeronautical engineering and calculus. But Air Force will make do, because Fisher DeBerry's players always will be textbook at tackling and blocking, and the academy's spit 'n' polish tells in football, too. Helping is a friendly schedule.

Offensive strengths: Guard Jim Ramsey, a mobile 280-pounder, sparks a smart, fierce group of blockers. Though untested, quarterback Scott Teigen is Air Force's best passing prospect in many years.

Offensive weaknesses: Held last fall to its lowest season rushing average in 11 years, Air Force no longer bamboozles foes with its option attack. The Falcons will get muzzled again if they fail to develop their passing game, a tall order given their lack of speed and pass-catching talent.

Defensive strengths: Going into the 1990 season, Air Force fielded a similarly inexperienced but promising group that developed rapidly, as Ohio State learned in a Liberty Bowl loss to the Falcons. That was coordinator Cal McCombs' first Air Force defense,

and he should have this bunch ready by October, particularly if 6-6 linebacker Steven Russ fulfills expectations.

Defensive weaknesses: Not only is the secondary raw, it won't get much practice defending the pass until the season begins. Aside from tackle Curtis Sutton, the defensive unit is a huge question mark.

Special teams: Air Force badly stung opponents here last year, blocking eight kicks. The Falcons also finished 11th nationally in net punting. A drop-off is likely. However, Chris MacInnis, who made five of nine field-goal attempts, should improve.

Keys to success: McCombs must quickly develop a green defense that will face San Diego State and BYU in September, and Teigen, who threw just one pass last season, must be an equally quick study.

Sure sign of trouble: A loss to Larry Bird's alma mater in the season opener.

Coach Fisher DeBerry says: "Considering we lose 10 of our 11 starters on defense, as well as our quarterback, wide receivers and tight end, you would have to consider this a reloading year for the Falcons."



Ready for takeoff: Though untested, quarterback Scott Teigen is Air Force's best passing prospect in many years.

7 WYOMING

Coach: Joe Tiller (9-13-1, 2 years).

1992 record: 5-7. WAC: 3-5/7th.

Key losses: Dorell Drake, DT; Dwight Driver, RB; Isaac Hawkins, OG (left team); Junior Marcellus, SS; Matt Swenson, TE; Jarod Thiele, LB; Kirk Van Roekel, OT; Joe Wahlgren, OT; Paul Wallace, CB.

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Curtis Dewberry, WR, 6-0/185, Sr.; Eric Edmond, WR, 5-11/176, Jr.; Joe Hughes, QB, 6-3/215, Sr.; Mike Jones, TE, 6-2/235, Sr.; Cody Kelly, G, 6-5/290, Sr.; Greg Scanlan, C, 6-3/275, Sr.; Ryan Yarborough, WR, 6-2/188, Sr. **Defense (7):** Ryan Folsom, LB, 6-3/250, Jr.; Kenny Johnson, FS, 6-0/185, Sr.; Prentice Rhone, CB, 5-8/185, Sr.; Cory Talich, LB, 6-3/205, Sr.; Kurt Whitehead, E, 6-3/235, Sr.; Thomas Williams, T, 6-4/290, Sr.; Tyrone Williams, E, 6-4/245, Jr. **Kickers (2):** Brian Gragert, P, 6-1/220, Soph.; Kris Mindlin, K, 5-9/184, Soph.

Other key returnees: Jason Bartlett, OT, Soph.; John Burroughs, DT, Jr.; Ryan Christopherson, RB, Jr.; Joe Cummings, LB, Soph.; Mike Fitzgerald, OT, Sr.; Terry Hendricks, RB, Jr.; Rob Levin, SS, Sr.; Brent Schieffer, DL, Jr.

Top newcomers: Vince Colbert, CB, Soph. (transfer/Cameron, Okla.); Marcus Harris, WR, Fr.; Steve Hendrix, CB, Jr. (JC); Waymon Livingston, WR, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Oregon State, Sept. 4; Northern Iowa, Sept. 11; at San Jose State, Sept. 18; Utah, Sept. 25; at Air Force, Oct. 2; at Texas-El Paso, Oct. 9; Hawaii, Oct. 23; Fresno State, Oct. 30; at New Mexico, Nov. 13; Colorado State, Nov. 20; at San Diego State, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Cowboys.

Site: Laramie, Wyo.

Outlook: Like so many WAC schools, Wyoming continues to field teams that sorely lack great speed and depth. Under Coach Joe Tiller, though, the Cowboys figure to be well-schooled and competitive. Big-picture concerns remain: The school has postponed plans for a state-of-the-art training and office complex that likely would boost recruiting, and Tiller has seldom beat out more prestigious schools for several big-time prep prospects.

Offensive strengths: Wide receiver Ryan Yarborough isn't a blazer—pro scouts timed him at 4.55 seconds in a 40-yard dash on artificial turf—but he gets open, and the 6-2 Yarborough, who bench-presses 315 pounds, grabs most passes thrown his way. There's plenty of skill elsewhere. Quarter-

back Joe Hughes is fairly accurate, tall and mobile; pounding running back Terry Hendricks, sore-shouldered much of last year, regained his form in April; and Mike Jones is the best pass catcher among WAC tight ends.

Offensive weaknesses: Aside from center Greg Scanlan and guard Cody Kelly, Wyoming gets pushed around up front.

Defensive strengths: That old Wyoming staple, the front four, remains formidable, particularly if massive Thomas Williams comes to play every snap. End Kurt Whitehead, slowed by a broken toe last year, was explosive during spring drills. The sleeper: former tight end Brent Schieffer. He runs like a linebacker and could excel up front if he recovers from a herniated disk.

Defensive weaknesses: Wyoming, simply put, is slow, especially behind the line. And if any of the linebackers goes down, Tiller might have to suit up.

Special teams: Much improved last season at covering kicks and punts, these slow Pokes remain susceptible to the big return. Punter Brian Gragert and kicker Kris Mindlin perform well in windy conditions and form an undervalued tandem.

Key to success: The offensive line, which watched its quarterbacks get sacked 42 times, must stop imitating a turnstile.

Sure sign of trouble: Injuries to the top blockers or any of the linebackers, even those on the bench.

Coach Joe Tiller says: "In this conference, if you ain't getting better, you're getting a whole lot worse. We're going to be better. How much, I don't know."

8 COLORADO STATE

Coach: Sonny Lubick (first year; 21-19 overall, 4 years).

1992 record: 5-7. WAC: 3-5/7th.

Key losses: Jason Basso, OT; Chris Deuchar, LB; David Frisch, TE; John Ivlow, FB; Kevin Lynch, DE; Gianni Marcantonio, P; Greg Primus, WR; Peter Rantza, K.

Starters returning: **Offense (8):** Leonice Brown, TB, 5-11/173, Jr.; Bob Cox, C, 6-1/278, Sr.; Mark Donnelly, T, 6-2/272, Jr.; Billy Gonzales, WR, 5-10/184, Sr.; Anthoney Hill, QB, 5-11/186, Jr.; Pat Meyer, G, 6-1/265, Jr.; Matt Phillips, WR, 6-1/193, Jr.; Derek Yurosek, G, 6-3/256, Sr. **Defense (9):** Lewis Capes, T, 6-4/276, Sr.; Kareem Ingram, LB, 5-11/206, Jr.; Ray Jackson, CB, 6-1/180, Soph.; Greg Myers, FS, 6-2/184, Soph.; Steve Norton, T, 6-2/260, Sr.; Matt Rood, E, 6-4/209, Sr.; Brian Schneider, LB, 6-1/213, Sr.; Andre Strode, CB, 5-8/171, Jr.; Roy Williams, SS, 5-11/192, Sr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returnees: Robert Marceau, LB, Sr.; Sean Moran, LB, Soph.; Mark Smith, TE, Sr.; Van Ward, TB, Soph.

Top newcomers: Clint Colon, DE, Jr. (JC); Matt McDougal, K/P, Fr. (RS); Todd Peterson, OL, Jr. (JC); Paul Turner, WR, Fr.

Schedule: Oregon, Sept. 4; Air Force, Sept. 11; Brigham Young, Sept. 18; at Nebraska, Sept. 25; at Kansas, Oct. 2; Fresno State, Oct. 9; at San Diego State, Oct. 16; at Utah, Oct. 23; New Mexico, Oct. 30; at Texas-El Paso, Nov. 13; at Wyoming, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Rams.

Site: Fort Collins, Colo.

Outlook: This figured to be a redemptive year for Earle Bruce. His first recruiting class, seasoned by three years of duty and a redshirt year, was to move Bruce and Co. back into title contention. But it is former Miami defensive coordinator Sonny Lubick who will call the shots because Bruce was fired as coach during the off-season, reportedly for alleged NCAA violations and charges that he verbally and physically abused players while asking them to practice beyond NCAA limits. Despite inheriting a veteran squad, Lubick could struggle. Outside of quarterback and tailback, the Rams are painfully slow, and their schedule daunts. The Rams will be improved, but their record (5-7) might not be.

Offensive strengths: Lubick's offensive coordinator is Dave Lay, whose three San Diego State offenses finished among the top seven nationally before Aztecs Coach Al Luginbill fired him. Lay installed a Don

Continued

Coryell-designed, one-back scheme that should benefit mercurial tailback Leonice Brown. The line is small but effective.

Offensive weaknesses: Lay's scheme might not fit. It relies on stretching the defense, but Colorado State's receivers are slow and unproven. Nor is shortish quarterback Anthony Hill, who ran the ball often under Bruce, a promising one-back passer. The Rams, who are shy of depth, could get help from fleet freshman receiver Paul Turner.

Defensive strengths: Experienced and tough, this mid-sized crew boasts a possible star in sophomore safety Greg Myers. Lubick, considered a defensive guru, will retain a 4-3 alignment but place more emphasis on attacking.

Defensive weaknesses: There's that word again—slow.

Special teams: Weak here last year, the Rams hope that redshirt freshman Matt McDougal can do the job as both a place-kicker and punter.

Key to success: Beating Air Force on September 11.

Sure sign of trouble: A schedule from hell. Colorado State could play fairly well and still win only a couple of games.

Coach Sonny Lubick says: "People win. Schemes don't. You can have any sort of attack or plan that you want. But you have to have good people, and we'll have good people at Colorado State."

9 NEW MEXICO

Coach: Dennis Franchione (3-8, 1 year; 83-27-2 overall, 10 years).

1992 record: 3-8. WAC: 2-6/9th.

Key losses: Brian Baca, OG; Willie Barry, DE; Jesse Becton, LB; Calvin Carr, LB; Steve Green, NT; David Margolis, K; Greg Oliver, WR.

Starters returning: Offense (9): Stoney Case, QB, 6-3/191, Jr.; Justin Hall, C, 6-2/271, Sr.; Clint Hall, T, 6-7/285, Sr.; Corby Hankins, G, 6-4/277, Sr.; Winslow Oliver, TB, 5-7/168, Soph.; Kenny Thomas, T, 6-0/272, Sr.; Jerone Williams, TE, 6-3/203, Sr.; Carl Winston, WR, 6-0/179, Sr.; Manley Woods, WR, 6-2/164, Sr. **Defense (5):** Charles Butler, CB, 5-9/175, Jr.; Tuli Matealona, LB, 6-1/227, Sr.; Herbert McKinley, CB, 5-11/170, Sr.; Roston Thomas, LB, 6-4/218, Soph.; Ray Wilson, FS, 6-1/199, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Mike Nesbitt, P, 6-2/183, Sr.

Other key returnees: Jarrett Anderson, NT, Sr.; Shawn Arruti, OG, Sr.; Damon Burrest, DE, Jr.; Ben Chavez, DT, Sr.; Trent Coit, SS, Jr.; Chris Griffin, TE, Soph.; Eric Jack, CB, Sr.; Joey Kowalczyk, WR, Sr.; Terry Moore, LB, Sr.; Jay Novak, FS, Sr.; Turhon O'Bannon, WR, Sr.; Zack Wesley, WR, Jr. (RS); Eric Young, TB, Sr.

Top newcomers: Manny Alderete, DL, Soph. (Prop 48); Buddy Billingsley, LB, Fr. (RS); Dan Coverley, LB, Jr. (JC); Rod Coverley, LB, Jr. (JC); Kenny Duilio, DT, Jr. (JC); Abe Ghoston, TB, Fr. (RS); Andy Gleason, OT, Fr. (RS); John Lisker, DL, Jr. (JC); Jasper Matthews, CB, Jr. (JC/RS); David Sloan, TE, Jr. (JC); Creighton Solomon, DL, Fr.; Todd Williams, LB, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Brigham Young, Sept. 4; at Texas Christian, Sept. 11; Fresno State, Sept. 18; New Mexico State, Sept. 25; Hawaii, Oct. 2; at Utah, Oct. 9; at San Diego State, Oct. 23; at Colorado State, Oct. 30; Idaho State, Nov. 6; Wyoming, Nov. 13; at Texas-El Paso, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Lobos.

Site: Albuquerque, N.M.

Outlook: First, some bleak historical context. Not since 1986 has New Mexico won back-to-back games, and in the five years before Coach Dennis Franchione got to Albuquerque, the Lobos won only nine games

(which is how many WAC newcomer Fresno State won last season). The good news is that Franchione extracted three victories from this tar pit last year in his debut. And though New Mexico still lacks speed, size, depth and strength, Franchione has upgraded the roster—mostly with Texans—without relying on too many junior college transfers. The Lobos expect to open a weight-training room by September and an office complex in April 1994. The cost—\$6.5 million—should pay off in more victories later this decade.

Offensive strengths: Though not an imposing group, nine starters return, including 5-7 Winslow Oliver, a 168-pounder who scooted for 1,063 yards last year as a freshman. Quarterback Stoney Case, much improved in the spring, isn't operating behind a granite front, but receiver Carl Winston latches onto most passes. A potential game-breaker: receiver Turhon O'Bannon, who, according to NFL stopwatches, ran 40 yards in 4.39 seconds.

Offensive weaknesses: Center Justin Hall will negate most noseguards, but his line-mates need to get stronger and faster. Franchione's one-back scheme no longer is novel, though 6-7, 238-pound David Sloan, a newcomer at tight end, could hurt some opponents.

Defensive strengths: A former outside linebacker, captain Tuli Matealona adjusted well in giving inside punch to a crew that had a WAC-best 40 sacks last season. Free safety Ray Wilson, though no speedster, hits and has good instincts.

Defensive weaknesses: Though it allowed nearly two fewer touchdowns per game than in 1991, this slow and small group seldom takes the ball away and gets punished by even mid-sized offenses.

Special teams: Punter Mike Nesbitt hits too many liners, but his 40.6-yard average isn't shabby. Franchione's kickers are untested, his cover teams uninspiring, though last year's 23.1-yard kickoff-return average impresses.

Key to success: Like most every team in the Olive Oyl-thin WAC, New Mexico can ill afford injuries to anyone outside the tape-and-water crew.

Sure sign of trouble: If New Mexico gets banged up in the first five games, after which the Lobos travel to Utah, San Diego State and Colorado State.

Coach Dennis Franchione says: "This is the first time in 17 years the coaching staff has remained intact at New Mexico, so that's helpful. There's no doubt we'll have a better team than we had last year. I hope that means we'll win more games."

10 TEXAS-EL PASO

Coach: David Lee (10-35-1, 4 years).

1992 record: 1-10. WAC: 1-7/10th.

Key losses: Dennis Austin, LB; Ed Bunn, P; Rick Canales, OT; Pat Cannon, LB; Dwight Conley, DB; Anthony Cruz, OT; Jason Gillespie, K; Anthony Hooks, DB; Ricky Massey, DT; David Miles, FB; Craig Pringle, DB; Pete Shuffelt, LB; Shawn Walker, DB. **Starters returning: Offense (8):** Danny Baker, C, 6-2/260, Jr.; Ivory Durio, RB, 5-8/189, Sr.; Shawn Gray, QB, 6-1/193, Jr.; Omar Lowrance, G, 6-0/282, Jr.; J.J. Rowlett, FL, 6-4/213, Jr.; Jesse Villareal, G, 6-2/298, Soph. **Defense (3):** Joel Bar-

czak, T, 6-2/259, Sr.; Larry Davis, T, 6-0/257, Soph.; Barron Wortham, LB, 6-0/230, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Marshall Young, P/K, 5-9/153, Soph. **Other key returnees:** Derrick Brown, SE, Sr.; Larry Burton, LB, Soph.; Carl Cormier, DE, Soph.; Omar Durham, RB, Soph.; Pookie Floyd, DE, Sr. (RS/academics); Mark Golliver, OT, Sr.; Kevin Goolsby, CB, Jr.; Quincy Guy, CB, Jr.; George Loman, OT, Sr.; Sam Rogers, FS, Soph.; Greg Shead, SS, Soph.

Top newcomers: Thomas Cate, DE, Sr. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton); Quincy Guy, SS, Jr. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton); Kenyon Lewis, FS, Jr. (JC); Demetrius Maxie, LB, Jr. (JC); Mitch Menges, OT, Jr. (JC); Darryl Phillips, FB, Fr.; Frank Ruffner, LB, Jr. (JC); Arnold Vaitai, G, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: At Arizona, Sept. 4; UNLV, Sept. 11; at New Mexico State, Sept. 18; at Hawaii, Sept. 25; at North Carolina, Oct. 2; Wyoming, Oct. 9; Utah, Oct. 16; at Air Force, Oct. 30; at Fresno State, Nov. 6; Colorado State, Nov. 13; New Mexico, Nov. 20; at Brigham Young, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Miners.

Site: El Paso, Tex.

Outlook: Even the staid news release from the WAC office tells it like it is: "The Miners need to improve in virtually every area." Call the Miners desperate. Coach David Lee, who is 10-35-1 in four seasons, brought in 18 junior college players during the off-season. Lee also welcomed back defensive coordinator Charlie Bailey from the World League and scrapped what proved to be a foolhardy reliance on man-to-man pressure pass coverage. With the accomplished Bailey calling the shots and talented—if erratic—defensive end Pookie Floyd back in good stead, the Miners should be improved. This year's schedule is tougher, however.

Offensive strengths: During spring drills, J.J. Rowlett, a flanker who caught 33 passes last year, provided the big-play skills that Texas-El Paso lacked last season. Quarterback Shawn Gray should emerge as a steady asset, but only if he isn't running for his life so often.

Offensive weaknesses: UTEP gets bullied up front, and its wideouts seldom separate from defenders. Relying on a freshman could lead to growing pains at fullback.

Defensive strengths: Bailey, who will use more zone coverage, is a fine motivator who can play gridiron chess with the best of 'em. Though a bit small, linebacker Barron Wortham has great instincts and is a sure tackler. Floyd might be UTEP's most talented defender since Seth Joyner.

Defensive weaknesses: How many other Division I-A programs insert four junior college transfers into the starting lineup after spring drills? Maybe it's better that only three starters are back, given that last year's defense finished last in the WAC in three categories.

Special teams: The worst punt-return team in the WAC, the departure of all-league punter Ed Bunn and an overall shortage of speed make these units especially suspect, though sophomore kicker Marshall Young is accurate.

Key to success: Can the newcomers adjust to I-A competition before, say, December?

Sure sign of trouble: If UTEP loses to UNLV in the second game of the season—just as the Miners did a year ago.

Coach David Lee says: "Of the 106 teams in America, we'll be picked 106th. But we won't end up there, because we've got our confidence and our recklessness back on defense." ■

SCOUTING THE WESTERN ATHLETIC

Ascending: San Diego State. Coach Al Luginbill heads into year five of a five-year plan with a studded, experienced roster. And the Aztecs seem to have overcome a trying off-season that included:

- Published reports that former players received sham classroom credits from a community college.
- The arrest of a starting safety who was charged with battering a campus police officer.
- Luginbill-imposed punishment against players for their role in the campus beating of a parking attendant.
- A disapproving letter to San Diego State President Thomas Day from the Greater San Diego Sports Association—which organizes the Holiday Bowl—in response to the Aztecs' brawling behavior in the final two games.

Look for the telegenic Aztecs to rally this fall. Also, huge home crowds will cheer new coordinator Del Wight's defense.

Descending: Air Force. The Falcons won't be outcoached or outworked, but opponents no longer are fooled by Fisher DeBerry's option attack. And DeBerry no longer has much talent on defense.

Nightmare schedule: Brigham Young and Colorado State. BYU fans wanted Notre Dame. They'll get the Fighting Irish in Provo on October 16. BYU also goes to UCLA and San Diego State. Hawaii and Fresno State visit Provo. Former Miami (Fla.) defensive coordinator Sonny Lubick, now in charge at Colorado State, inherits a hurricane schedule. The Rams' opening five opponents played in bowls last season.

Dream schedule: Air Force. Non-conference games against Indiana State, The Citadel, Army and Navy soften this flight.

Best matchup of the year: San Diego State at Fresno State, November 20. These California schools compete for numerous high school players, and many current players have friends on the opposing side. Though marred by a Fresno State-triggered brawl that included a helmet-flailing Aztec, who later was kicked off the team, last year's 45-41 shootout, won by Fresno State, renewed one of the West's liveliest rivalries.

Worst matchup of the year: New Mexico at Texas-El Paso, November 20. No offense, Lobos and Miners, but there won't be a run on El Paso for this one.

Bowl bound: Six teams are possible. Brigham Young, San Diego State and Fresno State should be locks. Don't count out Utah, Air Force and Hawaii, which, to absolutely no one's surprise, is the Aloha Bowl's favorite.

Biggest shoes to fill: Ryan Hancock's. Hancock, expected to forgo his final two

seasons at Brigham Young in favor of baseball, gave the Cougars tremendous play at quarterback last year.

Most underrated player: Wyoming's Ryan Yarbrough. He's renowned in the

WAC but overlooked nationally. Yarbrough probably is the WAC's best receiver, which is saying a lot.

Impact newcomers: James Curtis, RB, San Diego State, Fr.; David Dunn, WR, Fresno State, Jr.; Fred Harris, DE, San Diego State, Fr.; William Knight, OL, Brigham Young, Jr. (JC); Ron Morrisette, LB, Fresno State, Fr.

Coach of the year: LaVell Edwards, BYU. He's still the dean.

Coach on the hot seat: David Lee, UTEP. The effects of last year's 1-10 performance still linger.

Best bets: Marshall

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive line:
San Diego State

Best offensive backfield:
Fresno State

Best backup quarterback:
Tom Young, Brigham Young

Best wide receivers:
Fresno State

Best clutch receiver:
Ryan Yarbrough, Wyoming

Best defensive line:
San Diego State

Best-hitting defensive lineman:
Lenny Gomes, Brigham Young

Best linebackers:
San Diego State

Best-hitting linebacker:
Barron Wortham, Texas-El Paso

Best secondary:
Utah

Best kick-coverage units:
Air Force

Best kicking game:
Fresno State

Best coaching staff:
Brigham Young

Best coach:
LaVell Edwards, Brigham Young

Best Heisman candidate:
Marshall Faulk, RB, San Diego State

Best pro prospect:
Marshall Faulk, RB, San Diego State

RETURNING LEADERS

Rushing: Marshall Faulk, San Diego State, 163 yds./game (265 att., 1,630 yds., 15 TDs, 6.2 avg.).

Passing efficiency: Trent Diller, Fresno State, 136.9 rating pts. (332 att., 175 comp., 2,836 yds., 21 TDs).

Total offense: Trent Diller, Fresno State, 243.2 yds./game (82 yds. rushing, 2,836 yds. passing, 2,918 total yds.).

Receiving: Ryan Yarbrough, Wyoming, 7.2 rec./game (86 rec., 1,351 yds., 12 TDs, 15.7 avg.).

Scoring: Marshall Faulk, San Diego State, 9.2 pts./game (15 TDs, 1 PAT, 0 FGs, 92 pts.).

Punting: Chris MacInnis, Air Force, 41.5 avg. (58 punts, 2,409 yds.).

Punt returns: Greg Myers, Colorado State, 11.4 avg. (14 att., 159 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Sam Rogers, UTEP, 23.4 avg. (22 att., 515 yds., 0 TDs).

Field goals: Chris Yergensen, Utah, 1.4 FGs/game (13/20 FGs, 65%).

Interceptions: Greg Myers, Colorado State, 0.55 int./game (6 int., 51 yds., 0 TDs).



Sneaky fast: Wyoming's Ryan Yarbrough, the WAC's top returning receiver, isn't a blazer, but he gets open.

Faulk will deliver the second Heisman Trophy to the WAC (BYU's Ty Detmer brought back the first, in 1990). ... New Mexico, which is to complete a weight-training facility in September, will continue its marked improvement under miracle worker Dennis Franchione. ... San Diego State's Luginbill will wear a headset on the sidelines far more often. ... Glib Jim Sweeney, Fresno State's coach, will irritate several counterparts. Sweeney also will be reminded of this off-season remark: "San Jose State could have won this league." ... Ron McBride-coached Utah will never panic. ... Many voters for the national rankings will fall asleep before Hawaii's home games end.

Odds and ends: San Diego State continues to out-recruit not only WAC rivals, but also many of the country's premier teams. Recruiting analyst Rick Kimbrel, of Blue Chip Report, rated the Aztecs' latest class—which included 27 prep signees—as No. 16 in the country. Kimbrel imposed a caveat: Because he also rated the Aztecs' class No. 1 among the top 20 in terms of academic question marks, the Aztecs could lose some prospects. "If they can get all those kids in, it'll probably be their best recruiting class ever," Kimbrel observed. ... Coaches from Hawaii, Fresno State and Utah said last season's bowl berths paid off during recruiting. But recruiting analyst Allen Wallace said the WAC's banner season didn't translate into many recruiting coups. ... Hawaii's Bob Wagner and Fresno State's Sweeney received contract extensions. ... Old folks, take heart: Fresno State lists former Montreal Expos farmhand Jeff Tuss, 23, on its roster as a freshman quarterback. Hawaii's newcomers include Dan Dougherty, 24, a noseguard who served in the Army. ... Some National Football League scouts say the WAC's receiving corps might be the nation's best. ... Hawaii remains one of the sport's best-kept secrets. Over the last five years, its .661 winning percentage (40-20-2) ranks 16th nationally.

—TOM KRASOVIC

With Penn State gone, Irish are lone indy power

And then there was one. Now that Penn State has officially become a Midwestern school, thanks to its full-fledged Big Ten Conference affiliation, Notre Dame is the only legitimate independent power in the country. Oh, every now and then one of the other nine schools might grab a headline—see Louisville (1990) or East Carolina (1991)—but the Fighting Irish are alone at the top.

As we inch closer to 1994, when current television contracts expire and the next round of realignment craziness hits, you can be sure that the remaining independents will be making their sales pitches for inclusion in some conference.

Common sense says that the Irish will sit out the conference flea market. After all, who wants to split up that NBC dough? But poor ratings and the TV networks' newfound fiscal sanity may force Notre Dame to at least look around. And due to its bumbling basketball program, which suffers greatly from its lack of a league affiliation, Notre Dame just might be available.

The Big East? The Big Ten? Who knows? The Irish won't tell, that's for sure. Even if they stay independent, their current cronies will do everything possible to join some conference. Don't believe us? Check out Northern Illinois, Louisiana Tech, Arkansas State and Southwestern Louisiana. They all begin play in the Big West Conference this year. Now, that makes sense.

Meanwhile, Memphis State, Cincinnati, Tulsa, Southern Mississippi and East Carolina banded together last year to form the Independent Football Alliance, a pseudo-conference at best. Tulane and Louisville still are hoping for a miraculous berth in the Southeastern Conference, while Army and Navy will remain independents as long as they stay in Division I-A.

1 NOTRE DAME

Coach: Lou Holtz (66-18-1, 7 years; 182-83-6 overall, 23 years).

1992 record: 10-1-1 (beat Texas A&M in Cotton Bowl).

Key losses: Jerome Bettis, FB (declared for NFL draft); Reggie Brooks, TB; Tom Carter, CB (declared for NFL draft); Demetrius DuBose, LB; Ray Griggs, FL; Justin Hall, OT; Craig Henrich, K/P; Lindsay Knapp, OT; Devon McDonald, DE; Karmeeleyah McGill, DE; Rick Mirer, QB; Irv Smith, TE.

Starters returning: Offense (4): Lake Dawson, SE, 6-1/202, Sr.; Todd Norman, G (will move to T), 6-6/297, Sr.; Tim Ruddy, C, 6-3/286, Sr.; Aaron Taylor, G (will move to T), 6-4/299, Sr. Defense (8): Jeff Burris, SS (will move to CB), 6-0/204, Sr.; John Covington, SS, 6-1/211, Sr.; Jim Flanigan, NT, 6-2/276, Sr.; Brian Hamilton, T, 6-3/275, Sr.; Greg Lane, CB, 5-9/180, Sr.; Anthony Peterson, LB, 6-0/223, Sr.; Bobby Taylor, FS, 6-3/191, Soph.; Bryant Young, T, 6-3/277, Sr. Kickers: None.

Other key returns: Lee Becton, TB, Jr.; Pete Berchich, LB, Sr.; Brent Boznanski, K/P, Sr.; Paul Failla, QB, Jr.; Tracy Graham, CB, Jr.; Paul Grasmanis, DT, Soph.; Germaine Holden, DT, Jr.; Anthony Jones, DE, Soph.; Ryan Leahy, OT, Jr.; Will Lyell, OG, Soph.; Dean Lytle, FB, Sr.; Brian Magee, FS, Soph.; Derrick Mayes, SE, Soph.; Oscar McBride, TE, Sr.; Kevin McDougal, QB, Sr.; Mike McGlinn, OT, Sr.; Mike Miller, FL, Jr.; LaRon Moore, CB, Jr.; Kevin Pendergast, K, Sr.; LeShane Saddler, SS, Sr.;

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. NOTRE DAME
2. LOUISVILLE
3. MEMPHIS STATE
4. EAST CAROLINA
5. TULSA
6. CINCINNATI
7. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
8. TULANE
9. ARMY
10. NAVY

John Taliaferro, DT, Jr.; Renaldo Wynn, DE, Soph.; Mark Zataveski, OG, Jr.; Ray Zellars, FB, Jr.

Top newcomers: Melvin Dansby, LB, Fr.; Marc Edwards, FB, Fr.; Robert Farmer, TB, Fr.; Ron Hardin, FB, Fr.; Randy Kinder, TB, Fr.; Ron Powilus, QB, Fr. **Schedule:** Northwestern, Sept. 4; at Michigan, Sept. 11; Michigan State, Sept. 18; at Purdue, Sept. 25; at Stanford, Oct. 2; Pittsburgh, Oct. 9; at Brigham Young, Oct. 16; Southern California, Oct. 23; Navy (at Philadelphia), Oct. 30; Florida State, Nov. 13; Boston College, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Fighting Irish.
Site: South Bend, Ind.



Strong unit: With players like cornerback Jeff Burris, Notre Dame's defense is no longer a weakness.

Outlook: If the Irish's inexperienced offense doesn't improve quickly, the defense could get overworked. The entire backfield is gone, including National Football League first-round draftees Rick Mirer and Jerome Bettis. And despite another tough schedule, which includes Michigan, Stanford, Brigham Young, Southern California and Florida State, Coach Lou Holtz believes the Irish can be successful.

Offensive strengths: There aren't many, unless some young players develop rapidly. The only returning starters are center Tim Ruddy, split end Lake Dawson and linemen Aaron Taylor and Todd Norman, each of whom will move from guard to tackle. Highly touted freshman tailbacks Randy Kinder and Robert Farmer could be immediate impact players.

Offensive weaknesses: There are many unknowns, including the most important position—quarterback—where senior Kevin McDougal and junior Paul Failla are the leading candidates.

Defensive strengths: Once a weakness, the Irish defense may have to carry the load. Eight starters return, led by tackle Bryant Young, linebacker Anthony Peterson and cornerback Jeff Burris.

Defensive weaknesses: Even though the defense is experienced, the Irish return many of the same players who allowed 327.2 yards per game last season.

Special teams: This could be the biggest problem area. Replacing kicker/punter Craig Henrich will be difficult. Former soccer player Kevin Pendergast and walk-on Brent Boznanski are the leading candidates to be the No. 1 kicker and punter, respectively. Is this the year super-fast Mike Miller explodes?

Key to success: If the offense jells quickly, the Irish could be headed to another major bowl.

Sure sign of trouble: If McDougal and/or Failla have trouble moving the team.

Coach Lou Holtz says: "We have a lot of question marks. I thought we had rebuilding years before. But looking back, they really weren't."

2 LOUISVILLE

Coach: Howard Schnellenberger (39-48-2, 8 years; 80-64-2 overall, 13 years).

1992 record: 5-6.
Key losses: Kevin Blumeier, OT; Deral Boykin, SS; Greg Brohm, WR; Ray Buchanan, FS; Andy Culley, LB; Brevin Smith, DE.

Starters returning: Offense (9): Jamie Asher, TE, 6-3/227, Jr.; John Bock, G, 6-2/271, Sr.; Jeff Brohm, QB, 6-1/200, Sr.; Kevin Cook, SE, 6-0/190, Sr.; Ralph Dawkins, HB, 5-9/195, Sr.; Dave Debold, G, 6-2/265, Sr.; Chris Fitzpatrick, FB, 5-10/203, Jr.; Roman Oben, T, 6-4/260, Soph.; Jason Stinson, C, 6-4/259, Soph. Defense (6): Anthony Bridges, CB, 5-9/165, Jr.; Kevin Gaines, CB, 6-0/181, Sr.; Jim Hanna, T, 6-4/255, Sr.; Joe Johnson, E, 6-3/250, Jr.; Leonard Ray, T, 6-3/265, Sr.; Ben Sumpter, LB, 6-2/210, Sr. Kickers (2): Brandon Brookfield, P, 6-0/202, Jr.; Ken Harnden, K, 5-9/160, Soph.

Other key returns: Aaron Bailey, WR, Sr.; Tom Cavallo, LB, Sr.; Reggie Ferguson, WR, Sr.; Anthony Shelman, HB, Jr.

Continued

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TSN

PRESEASON ALL-INDEPENDENTS TEAM

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE



Steve
Matthews,
QB, Memphis State

DEFENSE



Bryant
Young,
T, Notre Dame

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

Ron Powilus, QB, Notre Dame

DEFENSE:

Melvin Dansby, LB, Notre Dame

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	LAKE DAWSON, Notre Dame	6-1/202	Sr.
WR	WIL URSIN, Tulane	6-1/191	Sr.
TE	CARLESTER CRUMPLER, East Carolina	6-6/245	Sr.
T	TODD NORMAN, Notre Dame	6-6/297	Sr.
T	AARON TAYLOR, Notre Dame	6-4/299	Sr.
C	TIM RUDDY, Notre Dame	6-3/286	Sr.
G	STEVIE WILLIAMS, Memphis State	6-1/276	Sr.
G	MARK ZATAVESKI, Notre Dame	6-6/295	Jr.
QB	STEVE MATTHEWS, Memphis State	6-4/215	Sr.
RB	RALPH DAWKINS, Louisville	5-9/195	Sr.
RB	JUNIOR SMITH, East Carolina	5-6/174	Jr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	JIM FLANIGAN, Notre Dame	6-2/276	Sr.
DL	MICHAEL TOBIAS, Southern Mississippi	6-3/275	Jr.
DL	BRYANT YOUNG, Notre Dame	6-3/277	Sr.
LB	DANTON BARTO, Memphis State	6-0/230	Sr.
LB	BERNARD CARTER, East Carolina	6-3/248	Sr.
LB	NATE DINGLE, Cincinnati	6-3/254	Sr.
LB	ANTHONY PETERSON, Notre Dame	6-0/223	Sr.
DB	JOCELYN BORGELLA, Cincinnati	5-10/179	Sr.
DB	JEFF BURRIS, Notre Dame	6-0/204	Sr.
DB	GREG LANE, Notre Dame	5-9/180	Sr.
DB	BOBBY TAYLOR, Notre Dame	6-3/191	Soph.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	JOE ALLISON, Memphis State	6-0/185	Sr.
P	MARK DeLOZIER, Tulsa	6-1/185	Soph.
AP	MIKE MILLER, Notre Dame	5-7/157	Jr.

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
WR	MARLON PEARCE, Cincinnati	5-8/162	Sr.
WR	CHRIS PENN, Tulsa	6-2/193	Sr.
TE	OSCAR McBRIDE, Notre Dame	6-5/251	Sr.
T	TODD BEECHING, Southern Mississippi	6-8/310	Sr.
T	MAX LANE, Navy	6-6/283	Sr.
C	JEFF KING, Memphis State	6-4/274	Sr.
G	DAVE DEBOLD, Louisville	6-2/265	Sr.
G	MARK LASKEY, Tulsa	6-2/268	Sr.
QB	JEFF BROHM, Louisville	6-1/200	Sr.
RB	LAMONT HEADD, Tulsa	5-11/220	Sr.
RB	STEVE WEBER, Army	5-11/210	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
DL	BOBBY HAMILTON, Southern Mississippi	6-5/265	Sr.
DL	BRIAN HAMILTON, Notre Dame	6-3/275	Sr.
DL	JIM HANNA, Louisville	6-4/255	Sr.
LB	KEVIN CZARNECKI, Army	6-2/235	Sr.
LB	WILBERT GILMORE, Tulane	6-0/198	Sr.
LB	TYRONE NIX, Southern Mississippi	6-2/230	Sr.
LB	JAVIER ZULUAGA, Navy	6-1/225	Sr.
DB	JAMES BLAKE, Tulsa	5-11/195	Sr.
DB	PERRY CARTER, Southern Mississippi	6-1/190	Sr.
DB	KEVIN GAINES, Louisville	6-0/181	Sr.
DB	JEREMY WILLIAMS, Memphis State	5-9/177	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
PK	KEVIN PENDERGAST, Notre Dame	5-10/168	Sr.
P	ERIC ESTES, Southern Mississippi	6-0/205	Jr.

Top newcomers: Ron Alvarez, DL, Jr. (JC); Freddie Douglas, WR, Jr. (JC); Darrius Watson, DB, Sr. (transfer/Cal State Fullerton); Bernard Wright, DB, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: San Jose State, Sept. 4; at Memphis State, Sept. 11; Arizona State, Sept. 18; Texas, Sept. 25; at Pittsburgh, Oct. 2; at West Virginia, Oct. 9; Southern Mississippi, Oct. 16; Navy, Oct. 23; at Tennessee, Nov. 6; at Texas A&M, Nov. 13; at Tulsa, Nov. 27.

Nickname: Cardinals.
Site: Louisville, Ky.

Outlook: Howard Schnellenberger hasn't assembled this much talent since his Cardinals flew to the Fiesta Bowl following the 1990 season. The coach's ninth Louisville team has savvy, speed and strength. It also has one problem—an unfriendly schedule. The Cards play six road games, including stops at West Virginia, Tennessee and Texas A&M.

Offensive strengths: Quarterback Jeff Brohm resisted overtures to play outfield full time in the Cleveland Indians' farm system to return for his fifth season. Brohm is a mobile Rick Mirer-type who threw for 2,008 yards in 1992. Senior halfback Ralph Dawkins could lead the team in rushing and receiving. Five players who caught at least 13 passes in 1992 return.

Offensive weaknesses: A gap must be plugged in the line, there's no proven experience behind Brohm and there's nobody with blazing speed in the receiving corps.

Defensive strengths: Linebackers dominate in Schnellenberger's scheme, and he has two tenacious ones in seniors Tom Cavallo and Ben Sumpter. Tackle Jim Hanna's

pressure on quarterbacks will force wobbly passes that cornerback Anthony Bridges will intercept.

Defensive weaknesses: Standout defensive backs Ray Buchanan and Deral Boykin both have departed, which means foes will look to pass.



The heat is on: Louisville defensive tackle Jim Hanna will pressure quarterbacks.

Special teams: There's work to do here. At least two of the Cardinals' six 1992 defeats can be blamed on shaky place-kicking. Brandon Brookfield and Ken Harnden may split the job until a consistent toe emerges. Brookfield, who averaged 41.7 yards per kick, is a decent punter.

Keys to success: A quick start. Early victories over San Jose State and Memphis State are critical if Louisville hopes to post a winning season. A lack of depth makes health important, too.

Sure signs of trouble: If Brohm, Dawkins (who is coming off a foot injury), Bridges or Hanna gets hurt, it may be time to punt.

Coach Howard Schnellenberger says: "We faced some of the nation's top-ranked teams week after week last year. Our young players matched up well with the best."

3 MEMPHIS STATE

Coach: Chuck Stobart (17-26-1, 4 years; 57-74-3 overall, 12 years).

1992 record: 6-5.

Key losses: Larry Bolton, C; Leon Bosby, FB; Gary Bouldin, TE; Russell Copeland, WR (declared for NFL draft); Chris Graham, DE; Chris Hobbs, NG; Pat Jansen, DT; Herb Kendall, DB; Chris Michael, DB; Jeff Sawyer, DE; Joe Stanley, OT.

Starters returning: Offense (6): Isaac Bruce, WR, 6-1/180, Sr.; Jeff King, G (will move to C), 6-4/274, Sr.; Steve Matthews, QB, 6-4/215, Sr.; Larry Porter, TB, 5-10/190, Sr.; Tony Semple, T, 6-6/262, Sr.; Stevie Williams, T (will move to G), 6-1/276, Sr. Defense (5): Danton Barto, LB, 6-0/230, Sr.; Rod Brown, LB (will move to E), 6-0/235, Sr.; Dominic Calloway, CB, 6-1/185, Sr.; Charles King, T, 6-1/272, Sr.; Jeremy Williams, FS, 5-9/177, Sr. Kickers (1): Joe Allison, K, 6-0/185, Sr.

Other key returnees: Davis Brooks, OT, Sr.; Barry

Dillard, SS, Jr.; Marcus Holliday, FB, Jr.; Ken Irvin, CB, Jr.; John Martin, TB, Sr.; Rod Mason, DT, Soph.; Trent Miley, OG, Sr.

Top newcomers: Jesse Allen, LB, Fr. (RS); Mike Anderson, WR, Jr. (JC); Kerry Cobb, DE, Fr. (RS); Al Dawkins, FB, Jr. (JC); Richard Hogans, LB, Fr.; Ernest Keefer, WR, Fr. (RS); Cedric Miller, DB, Fr.; Josh Miller, OL, Fr.; Bob Moose, NG, Jr. (RS/JC); Drew Pairmore, P, Fr.; Quitman Spaulding, TB, Fr. (RS); Marvin Thomas, DE, Fr. (RS); Duane Vandborg, LB, Jr. (JC); Britton Wilkins, LB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: At Mississippi State, Sept. 4; Louisville, Sept. 11; at Southwestern Louisiana, Sept. 18; Arkansas (at Little Rock, Ark.), Sept. 25; at East Carolina, Oct. 2; Arkansas State, Oct. 9; Tulsa, Oct. 16; at Cincinnati, Oct. 30; Mississippi, Nov. 6; Southern Mississippi, Nov. 13; at Miami (Fla.), Nov. 27.

Nickname: Tigers.

Site: Memphis, Tenn.



Elite Pirate: Carlester Crumpler ranks among the nation's best tight ends.

Coach Chuck Stobart says: "Last year, we put ourselves into position to win almost every game. Now, we've got to take the extra step to make the plays that win close games. And hopefully, we won't have any high ranking and people will let us earn it instead of handing it to us."

4 EAST CAROLINA

Coach: Steve Logan (5-6, 1 year).

1992 record: 5-6.

Key losses: Michael Anderson, QB (suspended from team); Zaim Cunnulaj, DT; Tony Davis, LB; Jerry Dillon, LB; Clayton Driver, WR; Greg Grandison, S; Ernie Lewis, LB; Deke Owens, K; Tom Scott, OT; Nick Wilson, OT.

Starters returning: Offense (7): Derrek Batson, SE, 5-9/180, Soph.; Ken Crawford, G, 6-5/266, Sr.; Carlester Crumpler, TE, 6-6/245, Sr.; Derrick Leaphart, C, 6-2/290, Jr.; Morris Letcher, FL, 5-9/165, Sr.; Junior Smith, RB, 5-6/174, Jr.; Terry Tilghman, T, 6-6/265, Sr. Defense (6): Bernard Carter, E, 6-3/248, Sr.; Jeff Cooke, T, 6-1/264, Sr.; Hank Cooper, SS, 6-0/184, Soph.; Greg Floyd, CB, 5-10/180, Sr.; Travis Render, CB, 5-9/182, Sr.; Walter Scott, E, 6-3/253, Jr. Kickers (1): Michael Jacobs, P, 6-5/218, Soph.

Other key returns: Tom Coleman, OG, Sr.; Dealtan Cotton, DT, Sr.; Morris Foreman, FS, Soph.; Mark Libiano, LB, Soph.; Dwight Linville, TE, Soph.; Eric Myers, LB, Sr. (RS/knee); Derek Taylor, DE, Sr.; Fred Walker, FS, Jr.; Ronnie Williams, WR, Sr. (RS/shoulder).

Top newcomers: Lamont Burns, DE, Fr. (RS); Lloyd Cameron, DT, Fr. (RS); Marcus Crandell, QB, Fr. (RS); Jamie Gray, OG, Fr. (RS); E.J. Gunthrope, SS, Fr. (RS); Chris Hester, QB, Fr. (RS); Chad Holcomb, K, Fr.; Jerris McPhail, RB, Soph. (transfer/Wake Forest); Ron Suddith, OT, Fr. (RS); Mike Sweat, LB, Jr. (JC); Sean Turner, LB, Jr. (JC); Allen Williams, WR, Fr. (RS); Bill Wilson, P, Jr. (JC).

Schedule: Syracuse, Sept. 9; Central Florida, Sept. 18; at Washington, Sept. 25; Memphis State, Oct. 2; at South Carolina, Oct. 9; Louisiana Tech, Oct. 16; at Southern Mississippi, Oct. 23; at Virginia Tech, Oct. 30; Tulsa, Nov. 6; at Kentucky, Nov. 13; at Cincinnati, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Pirates.

Site: Greenville, N.C.

Outlook: A difficult schedule, including September games with Syracuse and Washington, will test a young East Carolina team and the innovativeness of second-year Coach Steve Logan. In contrast to the past, the defense may have to carry this year's team.

Offensive strengths: Junior Smith, who ran for 1,037 yards last season, and Wake Forest transfer Jerris McPhail will have to carry a big load. Carlester Crumpler ranks among the nation's best tight ends.

Offensive weaknesses: The loss of Michael Anderson, who was suspended from the team in the off-season, reduces the offense's firepower. Youth at wide receiver could make it tough on the quarterback. A couple of departures along the line, particularly the loss of big Tom Scott, have created some question marks.

Defensive strengths: The secondary, led by Morris Foreman, has experience and speed. Bernard Carter is a big-play end who harasses quarterbacks.

Defensive weaknesses: Aside from a good group of linebackers, the Pirates find themselves short on seasoned players. Immediate help from junior college transfers and freshmen will be needed.

Special teams: An all-new crew will try to cure East Carolina's problems in the kicking game. After a solid spring, junior college transfer Bill Wilson has taken over at punter. True freshman Chad Holcomb inherits the place-kicking job. Morris Letcher will make kickoff and punt returns a thrill to watch.

Keys to success: If Wilson and Holcomb can solidify the kicking game and the defense can upgrade its performance, East Carolina could finish above .500.

Sure sign of trouble: If redshirt freshman quarterback Marcus Crandell struggles at the controls.

Coach Steve Logan says: "I think right now we're a better football team, and I mean that in the true sense of the word 'team.' Last year, I think we were competitive offensively. We were not competitive in punting nor in our kicking. We were obviously not competitive defensively."

5 TULSA

Coach: Dave Rader (27-30, 5 years).

1992 record: 4-7.

Key losses: Chris Bratcher, LB; Bill Buehner, RB; Stephen Ford, FS; Mark Govi, OG; Willie Hill, CB; Phil Holmes, DT; Eric Lange, K; Barry Minter, LB; Chandler Norton, CB; J. Paul Russell, OT; Lou Spanos, C; Aaron Tallman, DE; Brian Thompson, SE.

Starters returning: Offense (6): Gary Brown, FL, 5-8/160, Sr.; Gus Frerotte, QB, 6-4/226, Sr.; Lamont Headd, TB, 5-11/220, Sr.; Jay McDaniel, T, 6-8/270, Sr.; David Millwee, G, 6-3/266, Soph.; Phil Nittowski, TE, 6-3/235, Sr. Defense (4): James Blake, SS, 5-11/195, Sr.; Coco Butler, T, 6-1/274, Soph.; Sedric Clark, E, 6-3/247, Soph.; Floyd Goode, LB, 6-1/222, Jr. Kickers (1): Mark DeLozier, P, 6-1/185, Soph.

Other key returns: Dunstan Anderson, DE, Sr.; James Bailey, LB, Sr.; Brandon Brister, K, Soph.; Billy Cole, LB, Sr.; Kenny Gunn, TB, Soph.; Mike Haenszel, CB, Jr.; Dennis Hickey, FS, Sr. (RS/shoulder); Garrick Jackson, CB, Sr.; Daryle Johnson, LB, Sr.; Michael Kedzior, FL, Soph.; Mark Laskey, OG, Sr.; Cory Lax, DT, Jr. (RS/leg, ankle); Chris Penn, SE, Sr. (RS/academics); Jason Percy,

Continued

RB, Jr.; Jason Sanders, OT, Jr.; Lance Sloan, DE, Jr.; Patrick Williams, TB, Soph.
Top newcomers: James Anderson, K, Fr.; Pat Denofrio, CB, Jr. (JC); Beau Desherow, DE, Fr.; Justin Heinecke, OT, Jr. (JC); Jim Jones, C, Fr. (RS); John Lang, DL, Fr.; Jay Patterson, LB, Fr.; Doug Pisula, OG, Fr. (RS).
Schedule: At Iowa, Sept. 4; at Houston, Sept. 11; Oklahoma State, Sept. 18; at Oklahoma, Sept. 25; Cincinnati, Oct. 2; at Memphis State, Oct. 16; Middle Tennessee State, Oct. 30; at East Carolina, Nov. 6; at Arkansas, Nov. 13; Southern Mississippi, Nov. 20; Louisville, Nov. 27.
Nickname: Golden Hurricane.
Site: Tulsa, Okla.

Outlook: Despite the Golden Hurricane's independent status, Coach Dave Rader thought enough of Tulsa to turn down potential jobs at Colorado State and Wake Forest in the off-season. He has reason for optimism. After subpar 1988 and '90 seasons, Tulsa went to bowl games following the 1989 and '91 campaigns. After a 4-7 mark in 1992, the Hurricane again may be bowl bound, but only if it can survive a suicidal early schedule.

Offensive strengths: The return of split end Chris Penn, who sat out 1992 with academic problems, gives the Hurricane a proven deep threat. Led by Lamont Headd, Tulsa is four deep at tailback. Quarterback Gus Frerotte has a terrific arm and has adjusted well to Tulsa's no-huddle offense.

Offensive weaknesses: The line has quality starters, but little proven depth. Frerotte must overcome the mental lapses that led to five interceptions being returned for touchdowns in 1992. Tailback is the only position Tulsa can afford an injury without suffering a noticeable drop-off.

Defensive strengths: Free safety Dennis Hickey is a brilliant tactician and makes sure the defense is in the right alignment. The front four of Dunstan Anderson, Cory Lax, Sedric Clark and Coco Butler is quick and powerful, but injury-prone.

Defensive weaknesses: Tulsa has nine linebackers of similar ability, but none has yet proven to be outstanding. The Hurricane is thin up front and in the secondary, which means injuries could wreak havoc.

Special teams: Mark DeLozier, who averaged 41 yards per punt a year ago, returns. The big key will be replacing place-kicker Eric Lange, who made 19 of 23 field-goal tries in '92. Sophomore Brandon Brister or freshman James Anderson will get the call. Billy Cole, who recovered two onside kicks and seemingly makes every tackle on kick-offs and punts, is a rare special-teams talent.

Key to success: If the line matures, Tulsa will have a versatile offense that can score fast or with time-consuming power. Frerotte takes chances and will throw some interceptions, but he and Penn should be able to score six points at any time and from any place.

Sure sign of trouble: Injuries to the defensive front or secondary. Tulsa could be beaten down early by opening on the road at Iowa and Houston before returning home to play an improved Oklahoma State team and then traveling to Oklahoma.

Coach Dave Rader says: "Our concerns are up front on both sides. If we can jell there and avoid injuries, I feel really good about



He'll go long: The return of split end Chris Penn, who sat out 1992 with academic problems, gives the Hurricane a proven deep threat.

this team's chances. We've got some players that can really stretch a defense."

6 CINCINNATI

Coach: Tim Murphy (9-34-1, 4 years; 24-42-1 overall, 6 years).
1992 record: 3-8.

Key losses: Kris Bjorson, TE; Scott Brown, LB; Jim Carmon, OT; Jamie Crysdale, C; Ronnie Dixon, DT; Dale Katz, OT; Gary Reid, NG; Brian Whitlow, K.

Starters returning: **Offense** (7): Mike Britford, FB, 5-6/195, Sr.; Lance Harp, QB, 6-5/222, Sr.; Brian Jenkins, FL, 5-7/156, Sr.; Jamie Lemire, G (will move to C), 6-3/274, Soph.; Marlon Pearce, WR, 5-8/162, Sr.; David Small, TB, 5-9/180, Sr.; Matt Vaupel, G, 6-5/291, Jr. **Defense** (8): Jocelyn Borgella, CB, 5-10/179, Sr.; Jason Coppess, LB, 6-2/236, Sr.; Mike Davis, CB, 6-2/191, Sr.; Nate Dingle, LB, 6-3/254, Sr.; Bob Duckens, T, 6-2/261, Sr.; Alan Fletcher, FS, 5-10/184, Sr.; Reggie Hudson, LB, 6-1/203, Jr.; Latish Kinsler, SS, 6-2/197, Sr. **Kickers** (1): Jeff Blaylock, P, 6-1/204, Jr.

Other key returnees: Dorian Adams, LB, Soph.; Ernest Allen, NG, Jr.; Jonathon Boone, LB, Sr.; Dan Boslet, OG, Soph.; Mike Guzda, TE, Sr.; Darrell Harding, TB, Soph.; Will Humphrey, TE, Jr. (RS/foot); Craedel Kimbrough, TB, Soph.; Rick Simons, OT, Jr.; Jody White, SS, Jr.; Ray Woodside, OT, Sr. **Top newcomers:** Paul Blackwood, FB, Jr. (JC); Django Carlos, OL, Soph. (Prop 48); Scott Chester, OT, Jr. (JC); Darrius Felder, LB, Fr. (RS); Jason Gaudet, TE/OL, Soph.; Terry Grooms, DT, Fr. (RS); Anthony Ladd, WR, Fr. (RS); Doug Monson, OT, Jr. (JC); Rob Robinson, DT, Fr. (RS); William Scott, DL, Soph. (Prop 48); Marc Stevens, DB, Soph. (Prop 48).

Schedule: Austin Peay State, Sept. 4; at Bowling Green State, Sept. 11; Miami of Ohio, Sept. 18; at Syracuse, Sept. 25; at Tulsa, Oct. 2; at Vanderbilt, Oct. 9; Ball State, Oct. 16; at Toledo, Oct. 23; Memphis State, Oct. 30; at Houston, Nov. 13; East Carolina, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Bearcats.
Site: Cincinnati.

Outlook: As Coach Tim Murphy enters his fifth season, Cincinnati will be hard pressed to end its string of 10 straight losing seasons against a schedule that includes games at Houston and Syracuse and home contests against traditional nemesis Memphis State, Miami of Ohio and East Carolina.

Offensive strengths: Senior wide receiver Marlon Pearce is the Bearcats' career receptions leader. Senior tailback David Small, who has gained 1,784 yards over the last two seasons, will be pushed for the starting job by sophomores Craedel Kimbrough and Darrell Harding, a first cousin of Seattle Mariners star Ken Griffey Jr.

Offensive weaknesses: A line that's in a constant state of flux, the lack of a proven fullback and unimaginative play-calling.

Defensive strengths: New defensive coordinator Tom Roggeman takes over a unit that boasts experience in the secondary and at linebacker. Cornerback Jocelyn Borgella and linebackers Nate Dingle and Jason Coppess are solid.

Defensive weaknesses: The line must be revamped. The Bearcats allowed an average of 187.5 rushing yards per game last season, and that was with standout tackle Ronnie Dixon, who has departed.

Special teams: A real trouble spot. Murphy enters fall practice without a proven place-kicker. Punter Jeff Blaylock, who averaged only 37.2 yards per kick last year, suffered a hyperextended knee during spring drills but is expected to be ready for fall practice. Brian Jenkins is an exciting return man.

Keys to success: The Bearcats must stop

the run and force teams to pass against their experienced secondary. Quarterback Lance Harp must reduce his interceptions (16).

Sure sign of trouble: If Harp gets hurt, there is no one with experience to replace him.

Coach Tim Murphy says: "The challenge will be to rebuild our offensive line. We need to replace five of our top six players. Defense should be our strength based on last season. Having eight of our top 11 from last year will make us strong off the bat."

7 SOUTHERN MISS

Coach: Jeff Bower (11-12, 2 years).
1992 record: 7-4.

Key losses: Leon Anderson, OG; George McReynolds, OG; Lance Nations, K; Dwayne Nelson, FB; Greg Reed, WR; James Singleton, DE; Michael Welch, TB.

Starters returning: **Offense (6):** Todd Beeching, T, 6-8/310, Sr.; Mark Montgomery, WR, 6-1/180, Jr.; Carey Mooror, T, 6-4/266, Sr.; Anthony Owens, TE, 6-3/237, Sr.; Kenny Ray, C, 6-3/265, Jr.; Tommy Waters, QB, 6-1/210, Jr. **Defense (9):** Perry Carter, CB, 6-1/190, Sr.; Reggie Elder, T, 6-4/259, Sr.; Bobby Hamilton, E, 6-5/265, Sr.; Eugene Harmon, LB, 6-0/215, Soph.; Albert McRae, LB, 6-1/218, Soph.; Tyrone Nix, LB, 6-2/230, Sr.; LaBarion Rankins, CB, 5-11/174, Jr.; Melvin Ratcliff, SS, 5-11/185, Soph.; Michael Tobias, T, 6-3/275, Jr. **Kickers (1):** Eric Estes, P, 6-0/205, Jr.

Other key returnees: Fred Brock, WR, Soph.; Chris Buckhalter, TB, Soph. (status uncertain; suspended in off-season); Shaun Gamble, FS, Jr.; L.T. Gulley, SS, Soph.; Derrick Hervey, CB, Soph.; Kevin Jackson, DT, Sr.; Aubrey Johnson, DE, Sr.; Johnny Lomoro, K, Soph.; Damon McDaniel, FB, Sr. (status uncertain; knee); Terry Ulmer, CB, Sr. (status uncertain; suspended in off-season); Tim Wright, SS, Jr. (RS/knee).

Top newcomers: Eric Brown, FB, Fr. (RS); Alvin Dempsey, DB, Fr. (RS); Brent Duggins, OL, Jr. (JC); Terry Nunn, LB, Jr. (JC); Cedric Walthaw, LB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Pittsburgh, Sept. 4; Northeast Louisiana, Sept. 18; at Auburn, Sept. 25; at Southwestern Louisiana, Oct. 2; at Georgia, Oct. 9; at Louisville, Oct. 16; East Carolina, Oct. 23; at Alabama, Oct. 30; Tulane, Nov. 6; at Memphis State, Nov. 13; at Tulsa, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Golden Eagles.
Site: Hattiesburg, Miss.

Outlook: After posting a surprising 7-4 record in 1992, the Golden Eagles are facing a year of raised expectations. Coach Jeff Bower may have the talent to pull off an encore season, but with a typically tough schedule (seven road games), a postseason berth would be a lot to ask.

Offensive strengths: After sputtering through the first month of last season, the offense became adequate. Despite missing nearly three games, Tommy Waters became just the sixth quarterback in school history to post consecutive 1,000-yard passing seasons. If Chris Buckhalter returns from an off-season suspension, a sturdy backfield becomes downright dangerous. Receiver Fred Brock could be the game-breaker Southern Miss lacked last year. A bevy of good tight ends adds even more beef to a solid line, which is led by all-star candidate tackle Todd Beeching.

Offensive weaknesses: The Golden Eagles lost three of their top five receivers. Depth is a concern on the line, where Southern Miss would love to keep its two-line rotation intact. A knee injury may have ended the career of No. 1 fullback Damon McDaniel, and Bower admits that the incoming freshmen must help the Golden Eagles im-



Loaded defense: End Bobby Hamilton is one of nine returning starters on Southern Miss' defense.

prove their overall team speed and depth.

Defensive strengths: Nine starters return from a unit that kept the Golden Eagles in every game except one last year. Tackle Michael Tobias, end Bobby Hamilton and middle linebacker Tyrone Nix lead the front seven, where Southern Miss is two deep at every position. Cornerback Perry Carter, who set a school record by returning three interceptions for touchdowns last year, heads a solid secondary.

Defensive weaknesses: The secondary was loaded with talent before flamboyant Terry Ulmer (team-high six interceptions in '92) was dismissed from the team, backup Vernard Collins quit and fellow reserve Alvin Dempsey had knee surgery. Dempsey will rebound, but the Golden Eagles' depth will be young and untested.

Special teams: Place-kicker Johnny Lomoro showed his grit and his range last season, booting two last-second field goals from beyond 45 yards to win a pair of games. Punter Eric Estes hit 'em high enough and far enough that opponents averaged just 4.2 yards per return. Expect Carter to boost his 2.7-yard punt-return average.

Keys to success: Southern Miss must be able to run the ball to take pressure off Waters, a gutsy but not exceptionally skilled player. If the Golden Eagles hope to gain the bowl bid they felt they were robbed of last year, they can't afford to stumble against the Tulsas and Tulanes on the schedule. The season opener vs. rebuilding Pittsburgh will tell much about the team's chances.

Sure sign of trouble: If the defense goes south, Southern Miss may not have the offensive horses to bail it out.

Coach Jeff Bower says: "What we did last year is in the past. We are starting all over again, and we have to prove ourselves on a week-to-week basis. We have to have great preparation and play as hard as we can to

have the chance to have as good a year as we did last year. If some of those would fall into place, this is potentially a good football team."

8 TULANE

Coach: Buddy Teevens (2-9, 1 year; 41-40-2 overall, 8 years).

1992 record: 2-9.

Key losses: Steve Ballard, WR; Gary Butler, K; Eric Fillmore, OG; Darren McGowan, LB; Chance Miller, FB.

Starters returning: **Offense (7):** Robert Bodine, G, 6-3/289, Sr.; Erik Bruce, T (will move to G), 6-3/263, Jr.; Brant Byrd, T, 6-4/255, Sr.; Joey Perry, TB, 5-10/194, Jr.; Scott Sanchez, TE, 6-3/232, Jr.; Mitch Tinsley, C, 6-3/265, Sr.; Wil Ursin, WR, 6-1/191, Sr. **Defense (10):** Cedric Anderson, CB, 5-11/185, Soph.; Michael Batiste, T, 6-3/300, Sr.; Reggie Davis, NG, 6-0/300, Sr.; Wilbert Gilmore, LB, 6-0/198, Sr.; Brandon Hamilton, CB, 5-10/175, Sr.; Ruffin Hamilton, LB, 6-2/227, Sr.; Marc Milano, T, 6-3/253, Jr.; Willie Smith, SS, 5-9/202, Sr.; Mike Staid, FS, 6-2/202, Jr.; Shane Wiegand, LB, 6-1/230, Sr. **Kickers (1):** Chip Clark, P/K, 5-11/187, Sr.

Other key returnees: Jeff Dean, LB, Soph. (RS/knee); Brad Ducre, FB, Jr.; John Hubert, TB, Soph.; Steve Schuler, OT, Soph.; Michael Smartt, LB, Jr.; Tracey Watts, QB, Soph. (RS/academics).

Top newcomers: Shawn Jones, DT, Soph. (transfer/Miami, Fla.); Craig Randall, QB, Soph. (transfer/Michigan); Jerald Sowell, FB, Fr. (RS).

Schedule: Alabama (at Birmingham, Ala.), Sept. 4; at Rice, Sept. 11; William & Mary, Sept. 18; Mississippi State, Sept. 25; Navy, Oct. 2; Southwestern Louisiana, Oct. 9; at Texas Christian, Oct. 16; at Boston College, Oct. 30; at Southern Mississippi, Nov. 6; North Carolina, Nov. 13; at Louisiana State, Nov. 20; at Hawaii, Dec. 4.

Nickname: Green Wave.
Site: New Orleans.

Outlook: Buddy Teevens' first year in charge of the Green Wave went about as he might have expected, considering the team's lack of talent and the fact that Tulane hasn't posted a winning record since 1981. But an improved offense and a less demanding schedule should mean at least a doubling of its 1992 victory total.

Offensive strengths: Neither Michigan transfer Craig Randall nor Tracey Watts has played in a college game, but they bring a much higher talent level to the quarterback position than Tulane has had in recent years. Whoever wins the job has one of the nation's better receivers in Wil Ursin to throw to and an experienced, deep line to work behind.

Offensive weaknesses: For a program with a passing tradition, the Green Wave is devoid of proven talent at wide receiver, other than Ursin.

Defensive strengths: Ten starters return from last season. The front three of Michael Batiste, Reggie Davis and Marc Milano is solid and will get relief help from Miami (Fla.) transfer Shawn Jones.

Defensive weaknesses: Beyond free safety Mike Staid and cornerback Brandon Hamilton, the secondary is thin and suspect. Freshmen could wind up playing major roles.

Special teams: Punter Chip Clark returns for his fourth year, but he also will be the team's place-kicker. As a result, the Green Wave may not attempt too many field goals. Opponents scored eight touchdowns on blocked kicks and returns last season, which a team in Tulane's condition can't afford to allow.

Continued

Key to success: Randall and/or Watts must fulfill the promise they showed in the spring, which would give Tulane a legitimate Division I-A quarterback.

Sure sign of trouble: If Ursin draws constant double and triple coverage because there is no other receiving threat.

Coach Buddy Teevens says: "We're going to be in position to win more games, and not just because we say we want to. But when we get to that point, we've got to be able to execute under pressure."

9 ARMY

Coach: Bob Sutton (9-13, 2 years).

1992 record: 5-6.

Key losses: Bill Currence, TE; Dan Davis, DT; Duncan Johnson, CB; Rob Klopp, SS; Chris Koshinski, DT; Patmon Malcom, K/P; Mike McElrath, FS; John Pirog, OG.

Starters returning: Offense (10): Paul Andrzejewski, SE, 6-0/180, Sr.; Matt Conway, T, 6-2/265, Sr.; Chad Davis, HB, 5-9/165, Sr.; Mark Escobedo, T, 6-0/275, Sr.; Akili King, HB, 5-10/212, Soph.; Kevin Muir, C, 6-3/270, Sr.; Troy Prehar, G, 6-3/255, Sr.; Rick Roper, QB, 5-10/175, Jr.; Kevin Vaughn, HB, 5-11/175, Jr.; Steve Weber, FB, 5-11/210, Sr. **Defense (7):** Kevin Czarnecki, LB, 6-2/235, Sr.; Gary Graves, NG, 6-2/250, Sr.; Jason Miller, LB, 6-1/208, Sr.; Aaron Mitchell, LB, 6-0/225, Sr.; Jason Sutton, CB, 5-10/190, Sr.; Todd Turner, SS, 6-0/202, Sr.; Pat Zelle, LB, 6-0/215, Sr. **Kickers:** None.

Other key returnees: Jim Cantelupo, FS, Soph.; James Chun, CB, Jr.; Tony Cima, LB, Sr.; Joel Davis, DT, Soph.; Josh Freeman, OG, Jr.; Todd Hawkins, P, Sr.; Bob Heckathorne, LB, Jr.; Jon Kerr, TE, Jr.; Eric Oliver, LB, Jr.; Brian Orwig, FB, Sr.; Mike Plaia, LB, Sr.; Brett Rice, CB, Sr.; Jim Slomka, DT, Sr.; Rocco Wicks, K, Jr.; Pat Work, LB, Jr.

Top newcomers: None.

Schedule: Colgate, Sept. 11; at Duke, Sept. 18; Virginia Military Institute, Sept. 25; Akron, Oct. 2; at Temple, Oct. 9; Rutgers, Oct. 16; at Boston College, Oct. 23; Western Michigan, Oct. 30; at Air Force, Nov. 6; Lafayette, Nov. 13; Navy (at East Rutherford, N.J.), Dec. 4.

Nickname: Cadets.

Site: West Point, N.Y.

Outlook: Seventeen starters return to carry the momentum of last year's come-from-behind win over Navy. A favorable schedule and substantial offensive firepower should help.

Offensive strengths: Senior fullback Steve Weber paces a slew of returning runners, and junior quarterback Rick Roper threw only three interceptions in 97 attempts last year to improve the weak Army passing attack. Four starters return to the line, most notably senior tackle Mark Escobedo.

Offensive weaknesses: The Cadet passing game, while better, is still primarily a diversion. Roper must improve as an option decision-maker and as a passer.

Defensive strengths: Senior Kevin Czarnecki leads a deep group of linebackers, and noseguard Gary Graves is a solid anchor on a young line.

Defensive weaknesses: The secondary was devastated by graduation, and the line is suspect, except for Graves.

Special teams: Patmon Malcom, who handled the kicking and punting chores last year, graduated, leaving a substantial gap. Senior Todd Hawkins will punt, while the placement job is wide open.

Keys to success: Army must find replacements in the secondary and along the defen-



You can count on him: Navy senior Javier Zuluaga is a good linebacker.

sive line, and Roper must become more of a big-play threat.

Sure sign of trouble: If opponents exploit the young Cadet defense, forcing Army's offense to play catch-up through the air.

Coach Bob Sutton says: "Compared to my first two years here, we are at a better starting point overall. . . . But we didn't achieve what we wanted to last year. It would be a mistake to say we're in a good position."

10 NAVY

Coach: George Chaump (7-26, 3 years; 64-58-2 overall, 11 years).

1992 record: 1-10.

Key losses: Chris Beck, LB; Chad Chatlos, DB; Robert Goodson, DE; Duke Ingraham, FB; Bob Kuberski, DT; Steve Palmer, C; Dave Papp, OG; Ches Snider, DT.

Starters returning: Offense (8): Kevin Hickman, TE, 6-4/244, Jr.; Max Lane, T, 6-6/283, Sr.; Dan Pidgeon, G, 6-1/276, Sr.; Tom Pritchard, SE, 6-0/182, Jr.; Jimmy Screen, FL, 5-10/184, Sr.; Cleavon Smith, FB, 6-0/209, Sr.; Blair Sokol, T, 6-6/275, Sr.; Jason Van Matre, QB (will move to TB), 5-10/185, Sr. **Defense (6):** Grover Favors, DB, 5-10/200, Jr.; Chris Hart, DB, 5-8/193, Jr.; Steve Lipsey, SS, 5-10/185, Sr.; David Shaw, E, 6-0/250, Sr.; Jonathan Wellington, CB, 5-9/184, Soph.; Javier Zuluaga, LB, 6-1/225, Sr. **Kickers (2):** Tim Rogers, K, 5-11/173, Jr.; Brian Schrum, P, 6-3/170, Soph.

Other key returnees: Shane Halloran, LB, Jr.; Billy James, TB, Sr.; Cory James, CB, Soph.; Michael Jefferson, WR, Jr.; Jim Kubiak, QB, Jr.; Andy Persson, DE, Soph.; Charles Puglia, C, Sr.; Ty Renick, DT, Sr.; Michael Riggins, CB, Sr.; Joe Speed, CB, Soph.; Brad Stramanak, FB, Sr.; Stacey Yopp, DT, Sr.

Top newcomers: None.

Schedule: At Virginia, Sept. 11; Eastern Illinois, Sept. 18; Bowling Green State, Sept. 25; at Tulane, Oct. 2; Air Force, Oct. 9; Colgate, Oct. 16; at Louisville, Oct. 23; Notre Dame (at Philadelphia), Oct. 30; at Vanderbilt, Nov. 13; Southern Methodist, Nov. 20; Army (at East Rutherford, N.J.), Dec. 4.

Nickname: Midshipmen.

Site: Annapolis, Md.

Outlook: Injuries, bad luck and inadequate talent doomed Navy to a 1-10 mark last year. Coach George Chaump is counting on improvements in all three categories this year, especially the third.

Offensive strengths: Last year's of-

fensive anemia appears to be cured. Senior Jason Van Matre moves back to tailback from quarterback, thanks to the return of junior Jim Kubiak (shoulder). The top seven pass catchers return, and the line is solid.

Offensive weaknesses: Chaump has yet to prove that his passing attack can work at a service academy, where the wishbone usually rules. Kubiak has plenty of promise but limited experience.

Defensive strengths: The top seven defensive backs return, although they were torched frequently last season. Senior Javier Zuluaga is a good linebacker, and Chaump has upgraded the unit's overall speed through recruiting.

Defensive weaknesses: The line is reeling from the graduation of tackle Bob Kuberski. Chaump will rely on youth at many of the other positions.

Special teams: Punter Brian Schrum and kicker Tim Rogers, Navy's leading scorer last year, return.

Keys to success: Navy must keep its skill people healthy on offense and find talent up front on defense.

Sure sign of trouble: If the secondary continues to be an inviting target for enemy passers.

Coach George Chaump says: "If we win this year, it will be one of the great things to happen in American sport. We'll have won and done it right—with the emphasis on academics." ■

Writers contributing to this preview were Rick Bozich of the Louisville Courier-Journal (Louisville); Michael Bradley, free-lance writer (Army and Navy); Tim Doherty of the Hattiesburg American (Southern Mississippi); Mike Grizzard of the Greenville Daily Reflector (East Carolina); Ron Higgins of the Memphis Commercial Appeal (Memphis State); Bill Koch of the Cincinnati Post (Cincinnati); Ted Lewis of the New Orleans Times-Picayune (Tulane); Ken MacLeod, free-lance writer (Tulsa), and Jim Spadafore of the Detroit News (Notre Dame).

SCOUTING THE INDEPENDENTS

DIVISION I-A

Ascending: Navy. Don't get too excited, Middies fans, but things are going to improve in Annapolis. Coach George Chaump finally has the personnel to run his passing offense, and the sour memories of the last few seasons should be erased. We're not saying Navy will earn a bowl bid any time soon, but the Midshipmen should be much better than last year's 1-10 crew.

Descending: Tulsa. Following the 1991 season, the Golden Hurricane bumped off San Diego State in the Freedom Bowl. Last year, Tulsa slipped to 4-7. It could get worse this season. The Hurricane plays four of its first six games on the road and must replace seven defensive starters. The offensive line is shaky and the kicking game is suspect.

Nightmare schedule: Notre Dame. Get ready to hear some big-time whining in South Bend because the Fighting Irish play a brutal schedule. They must travel to Michigan, Stanford and Brigham Young and host Florida State, Boston College and Southern California. Breathers like Northwestern and Navy will help, but when Lou Holtz praises the opposition this year, he won't just be blowing smoke.

Dream schedule: With a schedule that includes Bowling Green State, Miami of Ohio, Ball State and Toledo, why doesn't Cincinnati just join the Mid-American Conference? Throw in Austin Peay State and Vanderbilt, and you have the perfect schedule for a rebuilding team.

Best matchup of the year: Florida State at Notre Dame, November 13. NBC's hype machine probably will start cranking up in August for this one. The Seminoles could be ranked No. 1 (now that they have a kicker), and the Irish thrive on pulling epic upsets. This could be the best contest in the country this year.

Worst matchup of the year: Take your pick. Southern Mississippi visits defending national champ Alabama on October 30 for a pre-Halloween horror show. Meanwhile, when Memphis State visits Miami (Fla.) on November 27, the Hurricanes may be trying to win their 57th straight home game, which would tie Alabama's NCAA record.

Shocker of the year: Louisville over Texas A&M, November 13. Don't laugh. The Aggies just might be looking ahead to their big showdown with archrival Texas later that month. Louisville may have a bowl bid on the line when it travels to College Station. Cardinals quarterback Jeff Brohm should have a big game against a young Aggie secondary.

Bowl bound: Notre Dame is a definite and Louisville is a maybe. Book the Irish into their traditional New Year's Day slot—even if they have three losses. And

the Cardinals could find their way into a lower-tier bowl, if they survive a tough schedule.

Biggest shoes to fill: You'd have to look into Imelda Marcos' closet to find more

empty shoes than you would find in Notre Dame's locker room. Freshman Ron Powlus, senior Kevin McDougal and junior Paul Failla will try to replace Rick Mirer at quarterback, while Lee Becton and Dean Lytle are candidates to take over for tail-

back Reggie Brooks and fullback Jerome Bettis, respectively. Oscar McBride should replace Irv Smith at tight end, and LaRon Moore must step in for cornerback Tom Carter.

Most underrated player: Cincinnati linebacker Nate Dingle. At 6-foot-3, 254 pounds, the senior may have an odd body size for an outside

linebacker, but Dingle is a speedy sackmeister whose technique against the run continues to improve.

Impact newcomers: Ron Alvarez, DL, Louisville, Jr. (JC); Melvin Dansby, LB, Notre Dame, Fr.; Jim Jones, C, Tulsa, Fr. (RS); Terry Nunn, LB, Southern Mississippi, Jr. (JC); Ron Powlus, QB, Notre Dame, Fr.; Mike Sweat, LB, East Carolina, Jr. (JC).

Coach of the year: Howard Schnellenberger, Louisville. The Cardinals are still a long way from their magical 1990 season, when Louisville finished 10-1-1 and whipped Alabama in the Fiesta Bowl. But Schnellenberger should have the Cardinals in contention for a postseason bid this season. He has the program moving in the right direction; now all he must do is tone down the schedule.

Best bets: Memphis State's top-flight kicker, Joe Allison, will have at least two three-field-goal games. . . . Notre Dame freshman Ron Powlus will be starting at quarterback by the end of the season—if not sooner. . . . East Carolina will rebound from last year's disappointing 5-6 season. . . . Army and Navy will lose to Air Force—again.

Odds and ends: Notre Dame had four players (Rick Mirer, Jerome Bettis, Tom Carter and Irv Smith) selected in the first round of the 1993 National Football League draft. Southern Cal had a record five first-round picks in the 1968 draft. . . . This is the 100th year of football at Tulane. . . . Notre Dame and Navy meet at Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium this year, while the Army-Navy game takes a one-year hiatus from Philly, landing in East Rutherford, N.J. . . . Under Lou Holtz, Notre Dame is 5-7-1 in games decided by a field goal or less. . . . Last year, Junior Smith became the first East Carolina player since 1979 to rush for over 1,000 yards. . . . Louisville is making progress toward building a 50,000-seat, on-campus football stadium, which the Cardinals hope to open in 1995 or '96.

—MICHAEL BRADLEY

HONOR ROLL

Best offensive line:

Notre Dame

Best backfield:

Louisville

Best backup quarterback:

Paul Failla, Notre Dame

Best wide receivers:

Notre Dame

Best clutch receiver:

Wil Ursin, Tulane

Best defensive line:

Notre Dame

Best-hitting defensive lineman:

Bryant Young, Notre Dame

Best linebackers:

Cincinnati

Best-hitting linebacker:

Danton Barto, Memphis State

Best secondary:

Notre Dame

Best-hitting defensive back:

Bobby Taylor, Notre Dame

Best kicking game:

Memphis State

Best kick-coverage units:

Notre Dame

Best coaching staff:

Notre Dame

Best coach:

Lou Holtz, Notre Dame

Best Heisman candidate:

None

Best pro prospect:

Aaron Taylor, OT, Notre Dame

RETURNING LEADERS

Rushing: Junior Smith, East Carolina, 94.3 yds./game (186 att., 1,037 yds., 9 TDs, 5.6 avg.).

Passing efficiency: Steve Matthews, Memphis State, 134.8 rating pts. (286 att., 175 comp., 2,084 yds., 18 TDs).

Total offense: Jeff Brohm, Louisville, 178.8 yds./game (-41 yds. rushing, 2,008 yds. passing, 1,967 total yds.).

Receiving: Marlon Pearce, Cincinnati, 5.6 rec./game (56 rec., 891 yds., 5 TDs, 15.9 avg.).

Scoring: Joe Allison, Memphis State, 9.2 pts./game (0 TDs, 32 PATs, 23 FGs, 101 pts.).

Punting: Brandon Brookfield, Louisville, 41.7 avg. (60 punts, 2,501 yds.).

Punt returns: Morris Letcher, East Carolina, 11.9 avg. (22 att., 263 yds., 0 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Chad Davis, Army, 24.0 avg. (23 att., 552 yds., 0 TDs).

Field goals: Joe Allison, Memphis State, 2.1 FG/game (23/25 FGs, 92%).

Interceptions: Terry Ulmer, Southern Mississippi (status uncertain; suspended in off-season), 0.55 int./game (6 int., 132 yds., 0 TDs).



Point machine: Memphis State's Joe Allison kicked at least three field goals in six games last year.

INDEPENDENTS

DIVISION I-A

TSN UNIT RANKINGS

Rejects find they're wanted at Fresno State

By TOM KRASOVIC

San Diego Union-Tribune

If Fresno State wanted a fitting centerpiece for its football complex, why not a sculpture of the Statue of Liberty?

Give us your downtrodden football players, the inscription would read, and they will be shaped into one of the nation's finest backfields.

Trent Dilfer grew up near the Pacific Ocean dreaming of quarterbacking a team from the Pacific-10 Conference. But his chosen schools, California and Stanford, told Dilfer he couldn't cut it at quarterback.

Ron Rivers yearned to run the ball for Southern California, but he lacked an appropriate SAT score. Another swift and sturdy running back, Anthony Daigle, was told he could walk on at Arizona State—but he left Tempe without playing a down for the Sun Devils.

That trio of Californians later gravitated to the state's geographic center. And there, in fast-growing Fresno, the three have become bright bulbs in Fresno State's marquee offense.

Last year, the Bulldogs led the nation in scoring offense for the second consecutive season, averaging 40.5 points per game behind the passing of a player who couldn't get even Oregon to give him a chance to play quarterback.

"I'm kind of disgusted with recruiting," Dilfer said. "You just miss a lot of great athletes who are, most of all, hard workers, who have a great burning desire to succeed. That's what I was, and a lot of guys are like that."

A sophomore last year, Dilfer directed Fresno State to a piece of the Western Athletic Conference championship in the Bulldogs' first WAC season. The 6-foot-5 Dilfer weighed 245 pounds by season's end, but he flashed the speed that served him well as a strong safety (when he wasn't hurling passes) at Aptos High School near Santa Cruz.

Dilfer and Marshall Faulk give the WAC two Heisman Trophy candidates. "Trent Dilfer is the best quarterback in the West and maybe the best in the country," said Coach Al Luginbill, whose San Diego State team seldom stopped Dilfer and Co. last season while losing, 45-41, to the Bulldogs.

Fresno State's brisk running game, Dilfer contends, makes the offense go. He credits both Rivers and Daigle for keeping the unit

OFFENSIVE BACKFIELDS



Fresno State offensive backfield: (from left) Anthony Daigle, Trent Dilfer and Ron Rivers.

1. MICHIGAN

Key players: Todd Collins, QB; Ed Davis, TB; Che' Foster, FB; Jesse Johnson, TB; Ricky Powers, TB; Jay Riemersma, QB; *Tyrone Wheatley, TB.

Comment: Fab Four tailbacks are marvelous, and Collins may be better than Elvis Grbac.

2. FLORIDA STATE

Key players: Clyde Allen, TB; Zack Crockett, FB; *William Floyd, FB; *Sean Jackson, TB; Danny Kanell, QB; Tiger McMillon, TB; Marquette Smith, TB (RS); *Charlie Ward, QB.

Comment: Ward's super, and the top six rotating rushers from '92 all return.

3. TEXAS A&M

Key players: Cliff Groce, FB; *Greg Hill, TB; *Corey Pullig, QB; Rodney Thomas, TB.

Comment: Hill and Thomas combined to rush for 28 TDs; no sophomore jinx for Pullig.

4. NEBRASKA

Key players: Dave Fiala, FB; *Tommie Frazier, QB; *Calvin Jones, RB; Jeff Makovicka, RB; Cory Schlesinger, FB; Tony Veland, QB.

Comment: Frazier and Jones should reap lots of wins for 'Huskers.

5. WASHINGTON

Key players: Beno Bryant, TB (RS/knee); Damon Huard, QB; Leif Johnson, FB; *Matt Jones, FB; *Napoleon Kaufman, TB; Richard Thomas, FB.

Comment: Kaufman and Bryant are a great 1-2 punch; Huard may be an improvement at QB.

6. FRESNO STATE

Key players: James Allison, TB; Jamie Christian, FB; Anthony Daigle, TB; *Trent Dilfer, QB; *Ron Rivers, TB.

Comment: Excellent quarterbacking and two fine tailbacks.

7. TENNESSEE

Key players: *Mario Brunson, FB; Jerry Colquitt, QB; *Charlie Garner, TB; Aaron Hayden, TB; Mose Phillips, FB; *Heath Shuler, QB; James Stewart, TB.

Comment: Top six runners return from squad that averaged 211.4 rushing yards in '92.

8. BRIGHAM YOUNG

Key players: Steve Christensen, HB; Steve Clements, QB; *Kalin Hall, FB; Hema Heimuli, FB; John Walsh, QB; *Jamal Willis, HB; Tom Young, QB.

Comment: Good QB depth; Willis and Hall combined to rush for 1,746 yards.

9. SAN DIEGO STATE

Key players: *Marshall Faulk, RB; Tim Gutierrez, QB; *David Lowery, QB; Wayne Pittman, RB.

Comment: What the Aztecs lack in depth they make up for in star quality.

10. SOUTH CAROLINA

Key players: *Brandon Bennett, RB; *Rob DeBoer, FB; Mike Reddick, RB; *Steve Taneyhill, QB; Joe Troupe, RB (RS); Blake Williamson, QB.

Comment: Unheralded group should post some great numbers.

* Returning starter.

on track, particularly during hectic moments, and the quarterback expects steady play in 1993 from junior fullback Jamie Christian, who is a nephew of Miami (Fla.) Coach Dennis Erickson.

Rivers, who attacks defenses inside and out, rushed for 1,007 yards last season. Still, he defers much of the praise to Daigle, who alternated with Rivers in 1992 but scored 17 touchdowns and averaged six yards per

carry.

Besides, Rivers probably assumes you saw him in the Freedom Bowl—a contest in which Southern Cal allowed Rivers a game-best 104 yards rushing in Fresno State's 24-7 bashing of the Trojans.

"The only thing I have a regret about is that we're doing so much now, and I'm about ready to leave," said Rivers, a senior. "I wish I had another year." ■

TSN UNIT RANKINGS

Led by Vanover, FSU receivers have few peers

By DAVID H. CARROLL

Free-lance writer

Pity the poor defensive players who try to stop Florida State's no-huddle, "Fast Break" offense this season.

Not only do they have to contend with the speed and arm of Seminoles quarterback Charlie Ward, but they also must deal with what is arguably the most talented group of receivers in the country.

The most gifted of Florida State's wide-outs is Tamarick Vanover, a speedy sophomore who burst onto the national scene last year and made one big play after another. He is joined in the starting rotation by junior Kez McCorvey and seniors Matt Frier and Kevin Knox. Together, they give the Seminoles a front-line quartet that few teams can match.

"There's no doubt that we have a great group of receivers," Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden said. "Last year our throwers and catchers really came along, and this year they should be hard to stop."

Vanover's blazing speed makes him hard to stop and a threat to score any time he touches the ball. The first time he started at receiver last year, against North Carolina State, he scored on a 60-yard bomb. He set an NCAA record by returning his first two career kickoffs for touchdowns, racing 96 yards against Wake Forest and 94 yards against Miami (Fla.). Big plays like that were a reason why he was named a first-team All-America kick returner by THE SPORTING NEWS as well as Atlantic Coast Conference Rookie of the Year.

"Boy, he is a special player, a real game-breaker," Bowden marveled. "I've never had a kid come in here who could jump higher, run faster and do the things Tamarick can."

One of the things the 6-foot-1, 210-pound Vanover does so well is snatch the football out of the air.

"He always attacks the ball instead of waiting for it to come to him," receivers coach John Eason said. "He extends his arms out and he just goes and attacks it. He doesn't wait for it. He goes and gets it."

Vanover used that aggressiveness last season to lead the team in receiving with 42 catches for 581 yards and four touchdowns.

McCorvey has an uncanny ability to suddenly change directions. "I've never seen anybody cut and stop and fake somebody out



Florida State receivers: (front) Matt Frier, (back, from left) Kez McCorvey, Omar Ellison, Kevin Knox and Tamarick Vanover.

1. COLORADO

Key players: Rae Garruth, WR; *T.J. Cunningham, FL; Sean Embree, TE; *Christian Fauria, TE; *Charles Johnson, SE; Erik Mitchell, FL; *Michael Westbrook, WR.

Comment: Buffs' charge is led by two 1,000-yard wideouts and a sticky-fingered TE.

2. FLORIDA

Key players: Charlie Dean, TE; Monty Duncan, WR; Aubrey Hill, WR; Harrison Houston, WR; Jack Jackson, WR; *Willie Jackson, WR; *Greg Keller, TE.

Comment: Deepest unit around returns 176 catches, not including RB Errict Rhett's 55.

3. FLORIDA STATE

Key players: Omar Ellison, WR; Matt Frier, WR; Billy Glenn, TE; *Lonnie Johnson, TE; Kevin Knox, WR; *Kez McCorvey, WR; *Tamarick Vanover, WR.

Comment: Top four receivers return 133 catches, 15 TDs and oodles of potential in Vanover.

4. MICHIGAN

Key players: *Derrick Alexander, WR; Marc Burkholder, TE; Mercury Hayes, WR; Felman Malveaux, WR; *Walter Smith, WR; Amani Toomer, WR.

Comment: Alexander's known; it's time for Toomer, Hayes and Smith to step forward.

5. FRESNO STATE

Key players: Jeff Arnold, TE; Lee Harris, SE; Charlie Jones, FL; Michael Ross, FL; *Malcolm Seabron, SE; Tydus Winans, SE.

Comment: Seabron, who netted 23.7 yards per catch in '92, headlines a strong group.

6. HOUSTON

Key players: Daniel Adams, WR; *Keith Jack, WR; Donald Moffett, WR; *Ron Peters, WR; *Sherman Smith, WR.

Comment: Run-and-shooters return a whopping 231 catches.

7. WYOMING

Key players: *Curtis Dewberry, WR; *Eric Edmond, WR; *Mike Jones, TE; *Ryan Yarbrough, WR.

Comment: Yarbrough snagged 86 in '92, and Jones and Edmond combined for 92 more.

8. TEXAS TECH

Key players: *Scott Aylor, TE; *Lloyd Hill, SE; Mike Hunnicutt, SE; Donald Marshall, FL; Tony Miller, SE; *Derrell Mitchell, FL.

Comment: Hill is the star of a deep Red Raider corps.

9. WASHINGTON

Key players: Damon Barry, SE; *Mark Bruener, TE; Ernie Conwell, TE; Theron Hill, FL; *Joe Kralik, FL; Jason Shelley, SE.

Comment: Young group is ready to step forward, especially Shelley.

10. BRIGHAM YOUNG

Key players: Tyler Anderson, WR; Bryce Doman, WR; *Eric Drage, WR; Micah Matsuzaki, WR (RS); Tim Nowatzke, WR; Terence Saluone, TE.

Comment: Lacks the star quality of other groups, but depth is impressive.

* Returning starter.

as quick as Kez can," Frier said. The 6-foot, 180-pound McCorvey was the most consistent of the Seminole receivers last year, finishing with 34 receptions for 521 yards and a team-high six TD catches.

Frier is a tough, overachieving leader who sets the pace for everyone in practice.

"There's no cruise control with Matt," Eason said. "He goes full speed and gives everything he's got on every drill in every practice. That hard work has enabled him to pick his game up a notch to the next level."

Last year, the 5-11, 190-pound Frier was

the starting split end and leading receiver prior to separating his left shoulder on a diving catch against North Carolina. He missed almost five games but still managed to catch 22 passes for 340 yards and two touchdowns.

Knox is a 6-3, 195-pound leaper with deceptive speed. While rotating at split end and slot receiver last year, he caught 35 passes for 396 yards and three touchdowns. Providing depth are junior Omar Ellison and promising newcomers Philip Riley, Andre Cooper and Ernie Green. ■

TSN UNIT RANKINGS

Baylor digs in, proves tough in the trenches

By KIRK BOHLS

Austin American-Statesman

A year ago, Baylor's offensive linemen read a hometown newspaper article saying that the Bears probably would finish near the bottom in the Southwest Conference race. And, none too subtly, the paper gave a big reason.

No, it wasn't because guard David Leaks had lugged around 365 pounds the season before. Instead, the story focused on the entire front wall.

"Everybody was picking us to finish next to last in the conference, mainly because our offensive line was too inexperienced," said Leaks, a senior who weighed 260 in the eighth grade and could routinely knock down an entire pizza by himself. "That was a big motivation for us. Our coach read us an article that graded our offensive line a D. That was terrible. It was kind of discouraging, but it put a fire in our eyes."

Rather than seek a retraction, Baylor's offensive linemen wrote their own "letter to the editor"—in the form of tenacious play over the last seven games of the 1992 season (in which the Bears won five times to finish with a 6-5 overall record). Indeed, the unit proved a major contributor as the Bears clawed their way to a tie for second place in the Southwest Conference.

Baylor's ground attack churned for 240.1 yards per game in '92—the nation's eighth-best output—and the Bears scored on 32 of 37 penetrations inside their opponents' 20-yard line, including 23 touchdowns. And Leaks, down to 310 pounds, and center Chuck Pope received many All-SWC accolades.

Little was expected of the line because tackle Craig Bellamy, the lone returning starter, was fighting acute depression over a divorce. Furthermore, the overweight Leaks had been castigated for his mediocre performance in the 1991 Copper Bowl, and Pope, a junior college transfer, had never played center in his life.

"Everybody was calling us the worst offensive line in the SWC," Pope said. "When I moved to center, I was thinking, 'I can't believe I agreed to this.' My legs were too big to snap the ball. It was alien."

"There were a lot of people who didn't respect us, so we wanted to prove ourselves. I think we did, and I think we'll be one of the top offensive lines in the country (in 1993)."

OFFENSIVE LINES



Baylor offensive line: (from left) Fred Miller, David Leaks, Chuck Pope, Will Davidson and Craig Bellamy.

1. ALABAMA

Key players: William Barger, G; John Clay, G; Dennis Deason, C; *Matt Hammond, T; Joey Harville, T; *Roosevelt Patterson, T; *Tobie Shells, C; *Jon Stevenson, G.
Comment: Steady group led parade for 208.9 rushing yards per game in '92.

2. NOTRE DAME

Key players: Ryan Leahy, T; Mark McGlinn, T; *Todd Norman, T; *Tim Ruddy, C; *Aaron Taylor, T; Mark Zataveski, G.
Comment: Taylor-Norman-Ruddy are as good a trio as any in the nation.

3. NEBRASKA

Key players: Joel Gesky, T; Aaron Graham, C; *Lance Lundberg, T; *Ken Mehlin, C; Steve Ott, G; Brenden Stai, G; *Zach Wiegert, T; Joel Wilks, G; Rob Zatechka, G/T.
Comment: Three returning starters helped the 'Huskers net 328.2 rushing yards per game.

4. TEXAS A&M

Key players: James Brooks, T; Calvin Collins, G (RS); *Chris Dausin, C; *Tyler Harrison, G; Jeff Jones, G; *Jason Mathews, T; Todd Mathison, T; *Dexter Wesley, T.
Comment: Deep group is led by Dausin; Harrison, Mathews and Wesley are cuts above.

5. NORTH CAROLINA

Key players: *Ethan Albright, T; Russell Babb, G; Pat Conneely, C; *Scott Falise, G; *Shawn Hocker, G; Scott Overbeck, G; *Curtis Parker, T; Kerry Sharpe, T.
Comment: Parker heads a group that paved the way for 221.7 rushing yards a game.

6. BAYLOR

Key players: *Craig Bellamy, T/TE; *Will Davidson, G; David Davis, OL; *David Leaks, G; *Fred Miller, T; Mike Oatis, T (RS/knee); *Chuck Pope, C.
Comment: The big boys of the Southwest average 280 pounds per man.

7. VIRGINIA TECH

Key players: Chris Barry, T; *Jared Hamlin, G; *Chris Malone, G; Damien McMahon, G; *Jim Pyne, C; *Mike Smith, T.
Comment: This unknown group leaves opponents Pyne-ing for help.

8. OHIO STATE

Key players: Mike Dully, T; *Alan Kline, G; *Dave Monnot, G; Juan Porter, G (RS); Rod Smith, G/C; Korey Stringer, T; Jack Thrush, C; *Jason Winrow, T.
Comment: Stringer impressed the nation last season as a true freshman.

9. FLORIDA

Key players: *Gantt Crouch, C; *Dean Golden, G; *Reggie Green, T; Anthony Ingrassia, T (transfer/Boston University); *Jason Odom, T; David Swain, C; Ryan Taylor, T; *Jim Watson, G.
Comment: Green is great, and the rest of the line should continue improving.

10. STANFORD

Key players: *Jeff Bailey, T; Jeff Buckley, G; *Brian Cassidy, G; *Glen Cavanaugh, C; Seth Dittman, T; T.J. Gaynor, G; *Steve Hoyer, T.
Comment: Cavanaugh's steady, Cassidy's back, Buckley's the prodigy.

* Returning starter.

Leaks shares that viewpoint and said he wouldn't be surprised if Baylor's line produces "up to three or four" All-SWC selections.

"(Texas) A&M's is good, but ours is better," said Leaks, who married and had a son in the last year, adding to his maturity. "I think we have the best in the conference and one of the best in the nation."

An already-solid unit figures to be strengthened by the return from knee surgery of perhaps Baylor's most promising lineman, tackle Mike Oatis, and the develop-

ment of 6-foot-7 sophomore tackle Fred Miller and junior guard Will Davidson.

"They came on and played extremely well," said new Coach Chuck Reedy, formerly the Bears' offensive coordinator. "We kept things very simple. If I had to single out one thing we have, they are very athletic. Several run better than 5.0 flat in the 40."

"Our policy has been to try to have eight linemen ready and be in position to play 10 or so. From top to bottom, I think we have as good a young talent as any that I've been around." ■

TSN UNIT RANKINGS

Miami's latest line may be the 'Canes' best ever

By DAVID H. CARROLL

Free-lance writer

It takes a long time to read the roll of All-America defensive linemen produced at the University of Miami: Ted Hendricks, Rubin Carter, Eddie Edwards, Jim Burt, Jerome Brown, Danny Stubbs and Russell Maryland, to name just a few.

Big, quick, aggressive, run-stuffing, quarterback-sacking defensive linemen are the rule, not the exception, at the south Florida school.

"We play a defensive front where we're attacking on every down," defensive coordinator Tommy Tuberville said. "We're trying to create a new line of scrimmage on every snap."

Miami has ranked in the top four in the nation in scoring defense in six of the last seven years. Not coincidentally, the Hurricanes have finished first, second or third in the final polls in each of those years.

The 1993 defensive line could be Miami's best ever. Starting ends Darren Krein and Kevin Patrick, both seniors, are back, as is Rusty Medearis, a spirited All-America who suffered a season-ending knee injury against Arizona in the third game last year. Krein and Patrick led the Hurricanes with eight sacks each last season; Medearis recorded 10 in Miami's 1991 national championship season.

"We're a force that teams are going to have to deal with," said Patrick, who picked up the slack at right end after Medearis was injured. "When you get out on the field, what it comes down to is who wants it more. And nobody wants it more than us."

The three veteran ends are joined on the line by the tackle rotation of junior Pat Riley, sophomore Warren Sapp and senior Kenny Lopez.

"This could be one of the better groups of defensive linemen we've ever had because of the speed they've all got," said Tuberville, a Miami coach since 1986. "A lot of times we just out-quick the offensive line because we have better athletes on the defensive line. We just try to out-athlete them and out-speed them and get penetration."

The 6-foot-4, 258-pound Krein got plenty of penetration at left end last year, pacing all Hurricane defensive linemen in tackles (63) and quarterback pressures (24).

"Playing on the defensive line is a mental attitude itself," said Krein, a native of Au-

DEFENSIVE LINES



Miami (Fla.) defensive line: (from left) Rusty Medearis, Pat Riley, Darren Krein, Warren Sapp and Kevin Patrick. (Not pictured, Kenny Lopez).

1. TEXAS A&M

Key players: *Sam Adams, T; Kefa Chatham, T; Brad Cooper, NG; *Eric England, T; *Lance Teichelman, NG.

Comment: Trio of returning starters helped Ag-gies limit foes to 117.7 rushing yards a game.

2. MIAMI (FLA.)

Key players: Corries Hardy, E; Dwayne Johnson, T; *Darren Krein, E; Kenny Lopez, T; Rusty Medearis, E (RS/knee); *Kevin Patrick, E; *Pat Riley, T; Warren Sapp, T; Baraka Short, E.

Comment: The Hurricanes' ends will knock the doors off most offenses this year.

3. ALABAMA

Key players: Everett Brown, NT; Shannon Brown, E; *James Gregory, NT; Dameian Jeffries, E; Jeremy Nunley, E; Bryan Thornton, E. **Comment:** Curry and Copeland are gone, but a solid group remains.

4. FLORIDA

Key players: David Barnard, T; Mark Campbell, E; *Kevin Carter, E; *Johnie Church, E; William Gaines, T (RS/knee); Ellis Johnson, T; *Henry McMillian, T.

Comment: Exceptionally deep group will be bolstered by the return of Gaines.

5. NOTRE DAME

Key players: *Jim Flanigan, NT; Oliver Gibson, NT; Paul Grasmann, T; *Brian Hamilton, T; Germaine Holden, T; Anthony Jones, E; John Taliaferro, T; *Bryant Young, T; Renaldo Wynn, E.

Comment: Young headlines a unit that held '92 opponents to 3.1 yards per rush.

6. OHIO STATE

Key players: Pete Beckman, NG; Matt Bonhaus, T; Randall Brown, E; Luke Fickell, NG (RS/knee); Jayson Gwinn, E (RS); *Jason Simmons, E; Mike Vrabel, DL; *Dan Wilkinson, T.

Comment: Simmons and Wilkinson combined for 24 1/2 tackles for losses in '92.

7. PENN STATE

Key players: Todd Atkins, T; *Lou Benfatti, T; Eric Clair, NT; *Tyoka Jackson, T; Brandon Noble, NT (RS); *Vin Stewart, NT; David Thomas, NT.

Comment: Benfatti and Jackson may be the Big Ten's best pair of tackles.

8. MICHIGAN

Key players: Ninef Aghakhan, T; Gannon Dudlar, T; *Tony Henderson, MG; Jason Horn, MG; *Buster Stanley, T; Trent Zenkewicz, T.

Comment: This solid group will set the tone for the Wolverines' defense.

9. WISCONSIN

Key players: Todd Anthony, T; *Carlos Fowler, T; Lee Krueger, NG; *Lamark Shackerford, NG; *Mike Thompson, T.

Comment: The Badgers' revival starts in the trenches with Shackerford and Co.

10. ARIZONA

Key players: Tedy Bruschi, E; *Jim Hoffman, T; Chuck Osborne, NG; *Rob Waldrop, NG.

Comment: Not much depth, but Waldrop is the load who led last year's stifling unit.

* Returning starter.

rora, Colo. "There is always that pressure on us because we know that for us to win the game, the defensive line has to go out and dominate."

Medearis, who has undergone extensive rehabilitation since having major surgery on his left knee last September, will give the line a big boost when he returns.

"Players that have played with Rusty look up to him because he motivates you with a work ethic that is just unreal," Patrick said. "He is a very unique individual."

"If you watched him going through rehab, you could see it in his eyes. You could feel it around him. You just knew that he would make it back."

"From Day One, there was never a doubt

in my mind about it," said Medearis, who has never experienced defeat (20-0) as a starter at Miami.

Medearis probably will share time with Patrick at right end at the beginning of the season. Krein will start on the left side, backed up by redshirt freshman Kenny Holmes. Riley and Sapp are expected to start at left and right tackle, respectively, with Lopez in reserve.

"We're expecting big things from Pat Riley, whose 6-6 frame gives us good height in the middle," Tuberville said. "And Warren Sapp is potentially one of the best defensive tackle prospects that we've ever had here."

The Hurricanes have had a lot. ■

TSN UNIT RANKINGS

Don't discount Huskers' speed at linebacker

By LEE BARFKNECHT

Omaha World Herald

Want to see a Nebraska linebacker do a slow burn? Ask him whether he is fast enough to play the speed game that college football has become.

"People think that because we're from Nebraska that we're not supposed to be fast," inside linebacker Mike Anderson said. "They think all we do is walk around in cornfields."

That slowpoke stereotype also bothers outside man Trev Alberts, an All-Big Eight Conference pick last year.

"Our coaches have done a great job recruiting speed the past three or four years," Alberts said. "We know the game has changed."

"Big ol' strong guys don't get it done. You've got to be able to get from point A to point B fast. That's what our linebacker corps is for. When you look at the four of us, our strength is speed."

Those four—seniors Alberts and Anderson and juniors Donta Jones and Ed Stewart—all have run hand-held 4.5-second times in the 40-yard dash. Their electronic clockings, respectively, are 4.68, 4.68, 4.73 and 4.74.

That quartet combined for 214 tackles in 1992 and will be even more important this fall as the Cornhuskers move from their standard 5-2 defense to more of a 4-3 alignment that places more emphasis on the skills of the linebacking corps.

For Alberts, it's a style that could make him Nebraska's next All-America linebacker. Broderick Thomas, Mike Croel and Travis Hill all played on the outside in garnering such acclaim in recent years.

"He's already way into that group," outside linebackers coach Tony Samuel said. "Trev stands 6-4, weighs 230, is strong enough to pound people and fast enough to run anybody down."

Alberts credits Samuel for polishing his game.

"I had no technique when I came here," said Alberts, a fifth-year senior from Cedar Falls, Ia. "I was a skinny, small-town Iowa kid who could kind of run."

"At first I had trouble accepting what Coach Samuel said. But after seeing what he did with guys like Broderick and Mike Croel and Travis, I decided to do everything he said."

LINEBACKERS



Nebraska linebackers: (sitting) Trev Alberts, (standing, from left) Mike Anderson, Donta Jones and Ed Stewart.

1. ILLINOIS

Key players: *Kevin Hardy, OLB; *John Holecsek, ILB; *Dana Howard, ILB; *Todd Leach, OLB; William (Mo) Morris, ILB (RS); Simeon Rice, OLB; Melvin Roberts, ILB; Aaron Shelby, ILB; John Sidari, ILB; Dennis Stallings, OLB (Prop 48).

Comment: Howard, Holecsek and Rice combined for 28 tackles for losses.

2. MICHIGAN

Key players: Shawn Collins, OLB; *Matt Dyson, OLB; Jarrett Irons, ILB (RS); Greg McThomas, ILB; *Steve Morrison, ILB; Bobby Powers, ILB; *Marcus Walker, ILB.

Comment: Terrific 1-2 punch of Morrison and Dyson makes Michigan's defense tough.

3. NEBRASKA

Key players: *Trev Alberts, OLB; *Mike Anderson, ILB; Troy Branch, ILB; Jerad Higman, OLB; Donta Jones, OLB; *Bruce Moore, OLB; *Ed Stewart, ILB; Darren Williams, ILB.

Comment: Alberts-led group will overcome departure of Travis Hill.

4. ALABAMA

Key players: Darrell Blackburn, OLB (RS); Will Brown, OLB; *Lemanski Hall, OLB; Victor Lockett, ILB; Mario Morris, ILB; *Michael Rogers, ILB; Andre Royal, OLB; John Walters, ILB.

Comment: Around-the-ball Hall headlines steady Tide corps.

5. ARIZONA

Key players: *Brant Boyer, ILB; Charlie Camp, ILB; Thomas Dumps, OLB; *Sean Harris, ILB; Shawn Jarrett, OLB; Chris Lopez, ILB.

Comment: Harris and Boyer provide inside force behind Rob Waldrop in Wildcat defense.

6. KANSAS

Key players: *Don Davis, OLB; Harold Harris, OLB; Steve Harvey, MLB; Dick Holt, MLB; *Larry Thiel, MLB; Ronnie Ward, OLB.

Comment: Hard-working, overachieving bunch led the Big Eight in rushing defense.

7. OKLAHOMA

Key players: *Aubrey Beavers, OLB; *Mike Coats, ILB; Brent DeQuasie, OLB; Bryan Gorka, ILB; *Tremayne Green, ILB; Stirling Luckey, OLB (RS).

Comment: Beavers' outside pressure is a key part of the Sooners' attack.

8. TEXAS A&M

Key players: *Jason Atkinson, ILB; *Jessie Cox, ILB; Reggie Graham, ILB; Larry Jackson, ILB; Antonio Shorter, OLB; *Steve Solari, OLB.

Comment: Marcus Buckley's gone, but he leaves behind a solid band of 'backers.

9. UCLA

Key players: Bradley Craig, ILB; *Donnie Edwards, OLB; Brent Guyton, ILB (RS); Shane Jasper, ILB; *Nkosi Littleton, ILB; Jamir Miller, OLB (status indefinite; suspended in off-season); Carrick O'Quinn, ILB; Rod Smalley, OLB.

Comment: Extremely deep group is talented vs. the run or the pass.

10. FLORIDA STATE

Key players: *Ken Alexander, ILB; *Derrick Brooks, OLB; Chris Cowart, OLB; Alonzo Horner, ILB; Todd Rebol, ILB; James Roberson, OLB; Eric Smith, OLB.

Comment: Deep, young unit has a superstar in Brooks.

* Returning starter.

Staying healthy is a priority for Anderson, who last year tore a ligament in his right knee, ripped cartilage in his left knee and got poked in the eye—all in a one-month period.

"It was the hardest year I've ever had to go through," said Anderson, who missed just one game despite the injuries.

"I guess either I'm dumb or I have a high tolerance of pain," he said, smiling.

"Mike was on pace to possibly be as good as there was in the country as a junior until he had all those injuries," inside linebackers coach Kevin Steele said.

At 6-foot, 205 pounds, Stewart is Nebraska's new breed at inside linebacker. The

old-style Nebraska inside linebacker used to snap his chin strap, hunker down and yell, "Whip me!" Stewart, a converted strong safety, tightens his shoestrings, looks for a hole and whispers, "Catch me."

"Eddie combines tremendous speed with a great intelligence for the game and a savvy for making plays," Steele said. "He's got something in him that you just don't coach."

Jones, a 6-2, 225-pound junior and the youngest member of the first-string quartet, didn't start last year.

"But he played a lot," Samuel said. "He's a big-play guy. Every game you look at film, he'd come up with two or three big plays." ■

TSN UNIT RANKINGS

Penn State's senior trio is diverse, skilled

By **BILL DOHERTY**

Free-lance writer

Although they come from different backgrounds, Derek Bochna, Shelly Hammonds and Lee Rubin all ended up in the same place: University Park, Pa. This fall, the senior trio will lead a Penn State defensive backfield that should be one of the best in the nation.

In high school, Bochna was a big fish in a small pond, a 4.0 student who graduated No. 1 in a class of 70 students. He broke all of Tony Dorsett's western Pennsylvania rushing records in football and hit .514 with 23 stolen bases in his senior year of baseball at Mapletown High School in Greensboro.

Despite his athletic prowess, Bochna received few nibbles from NCAA Division I-A schools. Why? Many people doubted whether Bochna could make the quantum leap from tiny Mapletown to a I-A powerhouse.

"I admit that I went through some culture shock," the 5-foot-11, 188-pound Bochna said. "In my first couple days at Penn State, I saw more people than I had seen in my whole life in Greensboro."

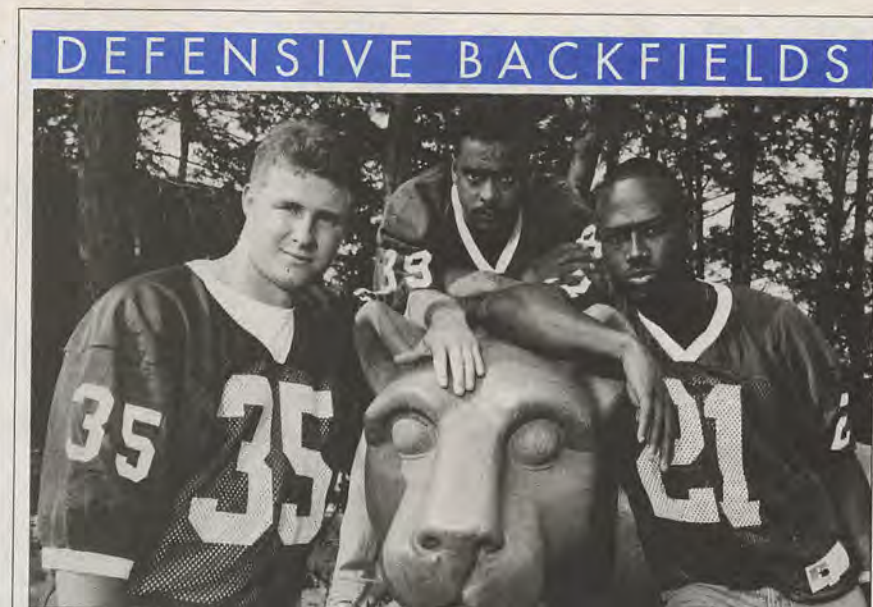
While the new surroundings may have seemed foreign, football was football. Penn State's roster was dotted with high school All-America types, but Bochna, a small-town boy, possessed big-time intensity.

"We knew that he had a player the first day," Penn State secondary coach Greg Schiano said. "He was s-o-o-o-o-o intense. It was clear that he wasn't coming here to sit on the bench."

While Bochna, the leadoff hitter for the baseball team the last two seasons, has played two sports at Penn State, Hammonds has played two positions in one sport. He began his career at the hero (defensive backfield) spot, but the 5-10, 190-pound Hammonds became a real hero as a redshirt freshman in 1990 when he switched from defense to offense after a slew of injuries at the tailback position.

In a game against Boston College that year, Hammonds racked up 208 yards (10th-best figure in school history) on 24 carries and scored on two long touchdown runs. It seemed that he would get the chance to live out his childhood dream.

Growing up in Barnwell, S.C., Hammonds dreamed of becoming the next Marcus Dupree or Bo Jackson. "It was great when I got the chance to play tailback at Penn State,"



Penn State defensive backs: (from left) Derek Bochna, Lee Rubin and Shelly Hammonds.

1. ALABAMA

Key players: Michael Ausmus, SS; *Chris Donnelly, FS; Willie Gaston, CB; Tommy Johnson, CB; Antonio Langham, CB; Sam Shade, SS.
Comment: Returnees combined to intercept 14 passes in '92.

2. PENN STATE

Key players: *Derek Bochna, SS; Cliff Dingle, CB; Marlon Forbes, CB; *Shelly Hammonds, CB; Brian King, FS; Josh Kroell, FS; Tony Pittman, CB; *Lee Rubin, FS.
Comment: Veteran unit that held foes to a 45.9 percent completion rate returns.

3. NOTRE DAME

Key players: *Jeff Burris, CB; *John Covington, SS; Tracy Graham, CB; *Greg Lane, CB; Brian Magee, FS; LaRon Moore, CB; LeShane Saddler, SS; *Bobby Taylor, FS.
Comment: Burris is steady, Taylor flashy, the rest solid.

4. FLORIDA STATE

Key players: *Clifton Abraham, CB; Harold Battles, CB (RS); Devin Bush, SS; Richard Coes, FS; Corey Fuller, CB; Steve Gilmer, FS; *Corey Sawyer, CB.
Comment: Paced by three super cornerbacks, the Seminoles again have great depth.

5. MIAMI (FLA.)

Key players: Marcus Carey, FS; Jack Hallmon, CB; *Tarris Harris, FS; Darius McCullum, SS (RS); Malcolm Pearson, SS; *Dexter Seigler, CB; Paul White, CB; Chad Wilson, CB.
Comment: Harris is the intimidator, Seigler and White the cover guys.

6. NORTH CAROLINA

Key players: Kevin Addis, SS; Sean Boyd, SS; *Sean Crocker, CB; Jimmy Hitchcock, CB; Fuzzy Lee, CB; Tim Smith, SS; Eric Thomas, FS; Ronald Thomas, CB; *Bracey Walker, FS.
Comment: Walker heads a unit that held foes to 177.3 passing yards per game in '92.

7. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Key players: *Perry Carter, CB; Shaun Gamble, FS; L.T. Gulley, SS; Derrick Hervey, CB; *LaBarion Rankins, CB; *Melvin Ratcliff, SS; Terryl Ulmer, CB (status uncertain; suspended in off-season); Tim Wright, SS (RS).
Comment: Opponents completed just 48.1 percent of their passes.

8. KANSAS STATE

Key players: Tom Byers, SS; Mike Ekeler, SS; Kenny McEntyre, CB; *Jaime Mendez, FS; *Thomas Randolph, CB; *Kitt Rawlings, CB; Chris Sublette, FS.
Comment: The Wildcats' 21 interceptions last year ranked fourth in the nation.

9. WASHINGTON STATE

Key players: *Greg Burns, CB; *Torey Hunter, CB; Todd Jensen, SS; *Singor Mobley, SS; *John Rushing, FS; Robert Turner, CB.
Comment: Four returning starters buoy the Pacific-10's best secondary.

10. SOUTH CAROLINA

Key players: *Frank Adams, CB; *Norman Greene, FS; *Jerry Inman, FS; Ron Nealy, CB; Reggie Richardson, CB; Shawn Sterling, SS; *Tony Watkins, SS.
Comment: Four returning starters held '92 foes to 170 yards passing per game.
* Returning starter.

he said. "I was living my lifelong dream."

That dream, however, became a nightmare. When the injuries to regular tailbacks Gary Brown and Leroy Thompson finally healed, Hammonds found himself pacing the sideline for most of his yardage the next two seasons. Finally, he asked for, and received, the opportunity to return to defense.

In '92, as the starter at right cornerback, Hammonds intercepted two passes, broke up a team-high 19 passes and had 39 tackles.

The 5-9, 185-pound Rubin is a bit of a contradiction. He is deeply religious, the son of a Pentecostal minister in Manalapan, N.J. But while he's on his knees on Sundays,

Rubin—one of Penn State's fiercest hitters—can be found cutting off opposing receivers at the knees on Saturdays.

After playing sparingly as a redshirt freshman in 1990, Rubin made big inroads the following season, moving into the starting lineup after a neck injury to Matt Baggett in the Lions' third game of the year. He started every game the remainder of the '91 season, finishing with five interceptions, three fumble recoveries, 19 pass breakups and a team-high 60 tackles, only the second time a free safety has led Linebacker U. in tackles. Last season, Rubin had 41 tackles and two interceptions. ■

Golden (Dome) boy

Pa. prep QB standout bids for Irish starting role

By DON ZIMMERMAN

Wilkes-Barre Sunday Independent

Not since Raghib (Rocket) Ismail scorched a red-hot trail from Wilkes-Barre (Pa.) Meyers High School to Notre Dame and then to pro riches has northeastern Pennsylvania seen anything like the manhunt for the golden talents of quarterback Ron Powlus.

Nearly every major college in the country beat a path to Berwick (Pa.) Area Senior High School to catch a glimpse of the 6-foot-3, 210-pound Powlus, whose 7,339 career passing yards smashed the state record by more than 1,000 yards.

When the dust settled, Notre Dame had won the sweepstakes, beating Miami (Fla.), Pittsburgh and Penn State for the crown-jewel recruit. Tabbed the nation's No. 1 recruit by no less than 10 publications, he visited all four universities and passed on a fifth trip to Stanford.

"Notre Dame just seemed to be exactly what I wanted," said Powlus, whose team was dubbed the mythical 1992 national champion by USA Today. "It wasn't anything the other schools did wrong in recruiting me. It's just that the situation at Notre Dame was right for me. The whole concept, the prestige, tradition, coaching staff, people, area and the entire atmosphere was just overwhelming for me."

The pressure that goes with being the nation's top recruit can consume some athletes, but it did not faze Powlus, who has been in a glass bowl since his sophomore year. He harnessed the hype in 1992 while managing to lead the Bulldogs to a 15-0 record and the state's Class AAA championship.

"I really didn't feel pressure during the recruiting process," Powlus said. "I had the opportunity to feel pressure and deal with it the past three years. I made up my mind three years ago to just go out, play my game, do my best and let people and the press rate me the way they want. I played just for myself, my team and town."

It was that kind of attitude and maturity, combined with superior athletic ability, that made Powlus the main target of every recruiter. It didn't hurt that he also posted better numbers than such past Pennsylvania prep quarterback greats as Joe Montana, Joe Namath and his personal hero, Dan Marino.

"Powlus is your typical all-American boy," Berwick Coach George Curry said. "In this day and age, he's a rare breed. I've been around a lot, but this young man is special. He's a good Christian kid who's got his priorities in order. He handles publicity and the media well, like a polished vet."

"On his choice of Notre Dame, I told him what I tell all my youngsters, and that's whatever choice you make, it's the right



Hot commodity: Last year, nearly every major college in the country beat a path to Berwick (Pa.) Area Senior High School to catch a glimpse of Ron Powlus.

one. He couldn't lose; all four were quality schools. As for Notre Dame, Powlus can adapt to its system. He's versatile. He's not only a great passer, but a strong runner who rushed for over 1,600 yards."

How quickly he'll get a shot at starting at Notre Dame will be determined in August, when he will compete with senior Kevin McDougal and junior Paul Failla for the No. 1 quarterback job that was vacated by Rick Mirer. But he's heading to South Bend with an attitude of "the sooner, the better." He's also realistic enough to know it's a major conversion from high school to major-college football, especially under the glare of the Golden Dome.

"Both Coach Lou Holtz and I say the same thing," Powlus said. "There will be an opportunity to play early. That's all I can ask for and all Holtz can give me. There are no guarantees. To start at a place like Notre Dame in your first season is quite a task. There's a whole lot to be learned, get used to and recognize. It will be a difficult chore to play early, but I'm not backing down from the challenge. I want to try."

Holtz, of course, is mum on Powlus' chances of starting as a freshman and has expressed some concern over all the attention his prized recruit has drawn. And with good reason.

"When a young man gets the type of national attention Powlus has, naturally it becomes a major concern of his coach," Holtz said. "I simply tell Ron that I just hope he'll try to be himself and not attempt to live up to everyone's expectations."

Throughout his high school career, Powlus has been compared to Marino, who played at Pittsburgh Central Catholic. And Marino's high school coach, Rick Erdelyi, now the offensive coordinator at Carnegie-Mellon (Pa.), sees justification.

"From an athletic standpoint, obviously the physical similarities are there," Erdelyi said. "I think Powlus has that same quick release and field awareness. He's a very astute young man, and Marino was that way, too. Obviously, if a kid throws for over 7,000 yards he has to find the second and third receivers, and Powlus does that very well, like Marino did. That's an intangible you can't teach."

Throughout the hoopla, Powlus has managed to maintain a 3.4 grade-point average in a college prep curriculum. An active participant in various charity events, he also has been the recipient of numerous academic and volunteer awards.

"As amazing as he is on the field, he's equally amazing off it," Curry said. "He uses his stardom to be a positive role model."

According to two of his Pitt-bound teammates, Jason Soboleski and Chris Orlando (the brother of Houston Oilers safety Bo Orlando), Powlus is just one of the guys.

"He's an incredible athlete, but to us he's a great guy who hasn't changed one bit despite all the honors," Chris Orlando said.

"He's a good friend, easy to get along with," Soboleski said. "He's fun to be around, likes to joke and pull pranks and has a genuine concern for his friends and teammates." ■

RECRUITING LISTS

Compiled by Jeff Duva, Blue Chip Illustrated

BEST OF THE 1993 COLLEGE FRESHMEN

Rk.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	High school	College
1.	Ron Powlus	QB	6-4/210	Berwick (Pa.)	Notre Dame
2.	Jammi German	WR	6-2/175	Ft. Myers (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)
3.	Clarence Thompson	DB	6-2/180	King (Detroit)	Michigan
4.	Willie Anderson	OL	6-6/304	Vigor (Prichard, Ala.)	Auburn
5.	Andre Cooper	WR	6-3/170	Fletcher (Neptune Beach, Fla.)	Florida State
6.	Travis Kirschke	DL	6-5/255	Ezperanza (Anaheim, Calif.)	UCLA
7.	Mike Mitchell	RB	6-0/210	Brophy Prep (Phoenix)	Stanford
8.	Daryl Bush	LB	6-3/218	Lake Brantley (Altamonte Springs, Fla.)	Florida State
9.	Allen Wilbon	LB	6-1/230	Kimball (Dallas)	Colorado
10.	Carl McCullough	RB	6-3/205	Cretin-Derham Hall (St. Paul, Minn.)	Wisconsin
11.	Eric Dotson	DE	6-4/290	Pascagoula (Miss.)	Mississippi State
12.	Scott Bentley	K/P	6-1/175	Overland (Aurora, Colo.)	Florida State
13.	Bryant Westbrook	CB	6-2/205	El Camino (Oceanside, Calif.)	Texas
14.	Thad Busby	QB	6-3/200	Pace (Fla.)	Florida State
15.	Randy Kinder	TB	6-1/205	East Lansing (Mich.)	Notre Dame
16.	James Allen	TB	6-1/205	Wynnewood (Okla.)	Oklahoma
17.	Jesse McCovery	TE	6-3/258	Theodore (Ala.)	Auburn
18.	Chris Kurpeikis	OL	6-7/290	Pittsburgh (Pa.) Central Catholic	Notre Dame
19.	Dulayne Morgan	LB	6-5/220	Elizabeth (N.J.)	Syracuse
20.	Scott Frost	QB	6-3/210	Wood River (Neb.)	Stanford
21.	Jay Graham	RB	6-1/215	Concord (N.C.)	Tennessee
22.	Ron White	OT	6-7/280	Bethlehem (Pa.) Catholic	Maryland
23.	Julian Pittman	DL	6-5/265	Niceville (Fla.)	Florida State
24.	Pat Barnes	QB	6-4/205	Trabuco Hills (Mission Viejo, Calif.)	California
25.	Tim Carey	QB	6-4/180	Los Alamitos (Calif.)	Stanford
26.	Chad Bates	OL	6-4/270	Spring Valley (Columbia, S.C.)	Florida State
27.	William Carr	DT	6-2/275	Carter (Dallas)	Michigan
28.	Jeff Hecklinski	QB	6-3/200	Palatine (Ill.)	Illinois
29.	Will Friend	OL	6-3/270	Neshoba Central (Philadelphia, Miss.)	Alabama
30.	Mike Doughy	OL	6-8/255	Lakeville (Minn.)	Notre Dame



Travis Kirschke: UCLA freshman.

TOP 100 1993 SENIORS

QUARTERBACKS				OFFENSIVE LINEMEN			
Rk.	Name (other pos. played)	Ht./Wt.	High school	Rk.	Name (other pos. played)	Ht./Wt.	High school
1.	Peyton Manning	6-4/185	Newman (New Orleans)	1.	Orlando Pace	6-7/300	Sandusky (O.)
2.	Scott Mutryn	6-3/190	Saint Ignatius (Cleveland)	2.	Josh Whicker	6-4/283	Reitz (Evansville, Ind.)
3.	Josh Booty	6-3/195	Evangel (Shreveport, La.)	3.	Josh Swords (DL)	6-3/275	Brentwood (Tenn.) Academy
4.	Ryan Clement	6-2/185	Mullen (Denver)	4.	Dwight Vick	6-4/260	Hampton (Va.)
5.	Donovan McNabb	6-2/205	Mount Carmel (Chicago)	5.	Travis Stroud	6-4/270	Dunwoody (Ga.)
6.	Lloyd Abramson	6-3/198	Seaholm (Birmingham, Mich.)	6.	Jarvis Reado	6-6/280	Archbishop Shaw (Marrero, La.)
7.	Keith Smith	6-1/175	Newbury Park (Calif.)	7.	Ryan Fagin (T)	6-6/270	North Allegheny (Wexford, Pa.)
8.	Shannon Taylor	6-5/225	Henry (Roanoke, Va.)	8.	Holland Postell	6-7/270	Summersville (S.C.)
RUNNING BACKS				9.	Noah Parker	6-5/280	Milton (Fla.)
1.	Fred Beasley	6-2/200	Lee (Montgomery, Ala.)	10.	Octavious Bishop (DL)	6-6/325	Westfield (Houston)
2.	Marlin Carey	5-10/175	Mt. Carmel (San Diego)	11.	Derrick Balcom	6-6/300	Chippewee (Fla.)
3.	Madre Hill	6-1/170	Malvern (Ark.)	12.	Brent Banasiewicz	6-5/290	Aucilla Christian (Monticello, Fla.)
4.	Scott Harley	6-0/185	Neptune (N.J.)	13.	Coleman Johnson	6-3/265	Riverside (Calif.) Polytechnic
5.	Tommy Reynolds	6-1/180	Johnson (St. Paul, Minn.)	14.	Bo Barzilaukas (DL)	6-6/270	South (Bloomington, Ind.)
6.	Rodney Sermons	6-0/175	Bishop Amat (La Puente, Calif.)	15.	Tony Coats	6-6/270	South Kitsap (Port Orchard, Wash.)
7.	Jermain Stafford (WR)	6-1/175	Franklin (Rochester, N.Y.)	16.	Ludecius Stewart	6-2/275	Southwestern (Detroit)
8.	Brandon Wills	6-0/200	Mullen (Denver)	17.	Zachary Bright	6-5/250	Kingsbury (Memphis, Tenn.)
9.	Delon Washington	5-11/170	Kimball (Dallas)	18.	Geoff Wilson (DL)	6-6/260	Robertsdale (Ala.)
10.	George Lombard	6-0/195	The Lovett School (Atlanta)	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN			
11.	Tyrone Henry	6-1/210	Rivercrest (Wilson, Ark.)	1.	Charles Dorsey	6-3/255	Dillard (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)
12.	Maurice Daniels	5-10/185	Raytown (Mo.) South	2.	Constantine Dumitrescu	6-5/290	Moreau (Hayward, Calif.)
13.	Elton Davis (DB)	5-10/185	Boulder (Colo.)	3.	Darrell Russell (OL)	6-5/270	St. Augustine (San Diego)
14.	Pepe Pearson	6-1/185	Senior (Euclid, O.)	4.	Tony Rosser	6-4/297	Marietta (Ga.)
15.	Eric Vann	5-10/185	Eldorado (El Dorado, Kan.)	5.	Marlin Pope (DT)	6-5/280	Hattiesburg (Miss.)
16.	John Williams	5-10/190	Permian (Odessa, Tex.)	6.	Juaquin Feazell	6-4/240	Peach County (Fort Valley, Ga.)
17.	Mario Washington	6-1/195	Pinole Valley (Calif.)	7.	Fred Dothard	6-4/265	Carrollton (Ga.)
18.	Fred Taylor	6-1/205	Glades Central (Belle Glade, Fla.)	8.	Kenny Mohammad (DE)	6-3/235	Weston (Mass.)
WIDE RECEIVERS				9.	Mike Buzin (DE)	6-4/240	St. Ignatius (Cleveland)
1.	Jamie Richardson	6-1/180	Godby (Tallahassee, Fla.)	LINEBACKERS			
2.	Maurice Staley	6-0/180	West (Charlotte, N.C.)	1.	Lamont Green	6-3/220	Miami (Fla.) Southridge
3.	Zola Davis (DB)	6-2/185	Burke (Charleston, S.C.)	2.	Vernon Rollins	6-3/220	Hackensack (N.J.)
4.	Nasser Ayyad	5-10/170	Arlington (Tex.)	3.	Lavale Sims	6-3/220	Oakland (Calif.)
5.	Magic Benton	6-1/170	Miami (Fla.) Northwestern	4.	Sammy Williams (DL)	6-5/290	Thornton Township (Harvey, Ill.)
6.	Marcus Nash	6-0/180	Edmond (Okla.) Memorial	5.	Demetro Stephens	6-3/218	Washington Co. (Sandersville, Ga.)
7.	Omar Rolle	6-1/180	Miami (Fla.) Norland	6.	Chris Singleberry	6-3/225	Saint Martin DePorres (Detroit)
8.	Abril Sheppard	6-4/185	Speake (Danville, Ala.)	7.	Mike Pringley (TE)	6-4/215	Linden (N.J.)
9.	Lee Smith	6-0/180	Spartanburg (S.C.)	8.	Danjuan Magee	6-2/240	Long Beach (Calif.) Polytechnic
10.	Joe Nastasi	6-1/170	Northern Bedford (Loysburg, Pa.)	9.	Jeff Coleman	6-3/220	Gaffney (S.C.)
11.	Alphonso Hulette	6-1/175	Westwood (Memphis, Tenn.)	10.	Kurt Belise	6-3/225	Bishop McNamara (Kankakee, Ill.)
12.	Donald Hayes	6-5/175	Madison (Wis.) East	11.	Antonio Cochran	6-5/235	Macon County (Montezuma, Ga.)
13.	Chris Bray	5-10/160	Blue Springs (Mo.)	12.	Mike Sutton	6-5/220	Salmen (Slidell, La.)
14.	Anthony Bookman	5-9/170	South Grand Prairie (Tex.)	DEFENSIVE BACKS			
TIGHT ENDS				1.	Ben Washington	6-1/185	Lincoln (Tallahassee, Fla.)
1.	Michael Jackson (LB)	6-3/240	Santa Monica (Calif.)	2.	Justin Stallings (WR)	6-1/198	Hawthorne (Calif.)
2.	Tony Gonzalez (LB)	6-6/225	Huntington Beach (Calif.)	3.	Robert Hammond	6-3/185	Opelousas (La.) Catholic
3.	Doug Ostrosky	6-7/240	Fox Chapel (Pittsburgh)	4.	Ty Goode	6-1/170	Southeast (Lincoln, Neb.)
4.	Andre Patterson	6-3/250	Carter (Dallas)	5.	Amp Campbell	6-0/185	Riverview (Sarasota, Fla.)
5.	Jerame Tuman (LB)	6-4/215	Liberal (Kan.)	6.	Colin Rogers (QB)	6-3/200	Danville (Ky.)
6.	Byron Taylor	6-6/230	Loveland (Colo.)	ALL-PURPOSE			
7.	Marcus Johnson (LB)	6-3/230	Paducah (Ky.) Tilgham	1.	Allen Iverson	6-1/170	Bethel (Hampton, Va.)
8.	Dale Allen (S)	6-5/225	Wynnewood (Okla.)	2.	Jerod Douglas	5-10/175	Judson (Converse, Tex.)
9.	Tony Fisher	6-3/220	Northside (Fort Smith, Ark.)	3.	Timmy Dwight	5-10/165	Iowa City (Ia.)
KICKERS				4.	Tim Alexander	6-2/175	Riverview (Sarasota, Fla.)
1.	Adam Abrams	5-9/170	Bishop's (La Jolla, Calif.)	5.	Charles Briggs	6-5/190	Lincolnton (N.C.)

Hanging by a thread

Division I-AA's football future is cloudy at best

By JEFF D'ALESSIO

Charleston Daily Mail

Some moan about reductions in roster size and the dwindling number of scholarships. Others complain about cuts in the coaching staffs. Still others groan about having to play the big boys of NCAA Division I-A merely to keep their own programs afloat.

Sam Rutigliano, who is entering his fifth season as coach at Liberty (Va.), says all of the problems associated with Division I-AA football can be summarized in one word.

"Revenue," he said with a sigh. "I-AA has no lifeline."

Rutigliano is not the only Division I-AA coach who feels that way. And they all seem to worry about the same things: saving money, knocking heads with I-A powerhouses for a fat payday (in some cases, equal to one-third of their entire football budgets) and enduring long bus trips to places like Cullowhee, N.C., and Morehead, Ky.

I-AA coaches struggle—and they gripe.

"I don't want to stay at the Omni and eat caviar," said Rutigliano, former coach of the Cleveland Browns, "but I don't want to have to listen to that guy on the radio saying they'll leave the light on for me at the Motel 6, either."

Some fear the light has already dimmed on Division I-AA football. The NCAA has trimmed the maximum number of scholar-

ships allowable for the nation's 115 I-AA schools from 70 to 67 to 65 to 63 in the last four seasons alone.

How low can it go?

"I live in constant fear they're going to make even more drastic cuts," said Marshall Coach Jim Donnan, who should be more relaxed than most of his I-AA coaching brethren since his Thundering Herd is the defending I-AA national champion.

"They're making it harder and harder to be competitive," lamented Tim Stowers, coach at traditional Division I-AA power Georgia Southern.

"They go much lower (on scholarship limits) and I-AA football is going to go kerpunk," Rutigliano said.

Well, maybe. Or perhaps all of Division I-AA will follow the lead of one of its member leagues: the Big Sky Conference.

Faced with the twin issues of gender equity and declining state support, university presidents of the eight Big Sky institutions took action last winter to reduce the number of football scholarships by six per year beginning in 1994. League schools will be down to 45 scholarships by the 1996-97 academic year.

That development has placed the Big Sky's standing as an elite I-AA conference in serious jeopardy, but something had to be done.

"It was done with gender equity in mind," Big Sky Commissioner Ron Stephenson said. "Most of the scholarships will be picked up by the women's programs."

"On our campus," Northern Arizona Athletic Director Tom Jurich said, "gender equity is a huge priority. Cost is also a big factor. I just don't know if people can continue to fund their programs at these levels."

Idaho was the lone dissenter in the Big Sky's 7-1 vote.

"I don't know how you can be competitive on this level with 45 scholarships," Vandals Athletic Director Pete Liske said, "unless you do it nationally."

That is a possibility. Gender equity is a big issue everywhere. All across America, state support for athletics is plummeting, revenues are down and ticket sales remain stagnant.

"Now that the Big Sky has cut down to 45, it's going to spread like wildfire," Morehead State Athletic Director Steve Hamilton predicted. "Nobody wants to be the leader of it, but everybody out there is looking for a way to have lower-cost football."

"Our conference thought that the Big Sky action was further than we'd like to go," Southland Conference Commissioner Bill Belknap said. "I think some reduction from 63 is possible."

Of course, even 45 scholarships would be considered a luxury at some schools. At the NCAA's 1991 convention, school adminis-

trators passed Rule No. 20.4.1.1 to end multi-division classification. No longer will schools with Division I basketball programs (Georgetown, St. John's and Alabama-Birmingham, for example) be allowed to field a Division II or III football team. All told, 26 football programs will make the leap from a lower division to I-AA this year, including the likes of Charleston Southern, Drake and Cal State Northridge. They will make the leap, in the cases of the Pioneer League and the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, without any scholarships whatsoever and without any realistic hope of vying for a national title.

"This is obviously something we would not have done if it hadn't been for the NCAA," said San Diego Coach Brian Fogarty, whose team will play in the Pioneer League this fall. The Toreros, however, might want to consider changing their nickname to Travelers before too long. Their new league includes Butler, Dayton, Drake, Evansville and Valparaiso, all located in the Midwest.

"The closest team to us is Drake, in Des Moines, Iowa," Fogarty said. "There's going to be a major cost as far as travel goes."

Far-flung leagues are just one reason that people like Rutigliano are worried about the future of Division I-AA.

"I just don't think there's a lot of people out there who care about I-AA," he said bluntly. "If there are, they're stupid." ■



How low can it go? Reductions in scholarships are making it harder for coaches like Georgia Southern's Tim Stowers to be competitive.



Meager coffers: Liberty Coach Sam Rutigliano says revenue (or lack thereof) is the biggest problem facing I-AA football.

1993 DIVISION I-AA TOP 20

1. MIDDLE TENN. STATE

If speed indeed kills, the Blue Raiders could dominate Division I-AA this season.

2. WESTERN CAROLINA

The upstart Catamounts boast I-AA's premier skill-position talent.

3. MARSHALL

Life after I-AA Player of the Year Michael Payton remains plenty prosperous.

4. YOUNGSTOWN STATE

The RB duo of Tamron Smith and Darrell Clark could take the Penguins a long way.

5. McNEESE STATE

This year should mark a changing of the guard in the Southland Conference.

6. NORTHERN IOWA

The perennial Gateway champs should coast through a top-heavy conference again.

7. IDAHO

Doug Nussmeier is the cream of the Big Sky's rich quarterback crop.

8. DELAWARE

The Blue Hens' ancient wing-T offense continues to confound opponents.

9. TROY STATE

The Trojans should jump from the Division II ranks to the I-AA playoffs in one year.

10. SAMFORD

A defense that surrendered a skimpy 18.3 points per game returns eight starters.

11. GEORGIA SOUTHERN

A ferocious defense spearheaded by end Alex Mash is one of I-AA's best.

12. LIBERTY

Never underestimate the wizardry of Coach Sam Rutigliano.

13. SW MISSOURI STATE

Fifteen starters return to a team on the rise in the Gateway Conference.

14. RICHMOND

With 19 starters back, Yankee opponents could get caught in the Spiders' web.

15. JACKSON STATE

Pro prospect Mario Perry anchors the SWAC's best defense.

16. EASTERN KENTUCKY

All-time I-AA rushing leader Markus Thomas is gone, but the Colonels simply reload.

17. NE LOUISIANA

Their final year in I-AA could be among the Indians' best ever.

18. ALCORN STATE

The Braves' aerial show, with 3,500-yard passer Steve McNair, is I-AA's most dynamic.

19. WILLIAM & MARY

With QB Shawn Knight back, the program's 100th birthday should be a happy one.

20. NORTH CAROLINA A&T

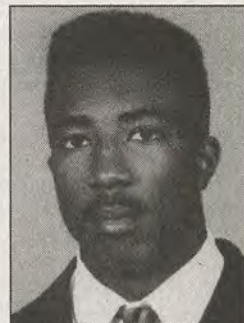
A veteran offensive line leads the way for All-SEC fullback James White.

1993 I-AA ALL-AMERICA RANKINGS

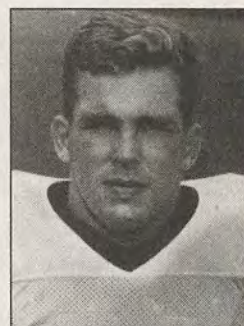
Rk.	QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1.	Steve McNair	6-2/215	Jr.	Alcorn State
2.	Doug Nussmeier	6-4/210	Sr.	Idaho
3.	Lonnie Galloway	6-3/203	Sr.	Western Carolina
4.	Jay Fiedler	6-2/215	Sr.	Dartmouth
5.	Greg Lilly	5-11/177	Sr.	Richmond
6.	Shawn Knight	5-11/170	Sr.	William & Mary
7.	Scott Semptimphelter	6-0/199	Sr.	Lehigh
8.	Kelvin Simmons	5-10/191	Sr.	Troy State
Rk.	RUNNING BACKS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1.	Keith Elias	5-11/190	Sr.	Princeton
2.	Tamron Smith	5-10/220	Sr.	Youngstown State
3.	Kelvin Anderson	5-10/185	Jr.	Southeast Missouri State
4.	Erik Marsh	6-0/195	Jr.	Lafayette
5.	Eric Gant	6-2/255	Sr.	Grambling State
6.	Everette Sands	5-10/210	Sr.	The Citadel
7.	Gerod Davis	5-11/205	Soph.	Central Florida
8.	Uly Scott	5-9/188	Jr.	Richmond
Rk.	WIDE RECEIVERS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1.	Rod Boothes	5-8/165	Sr.	Richmond
2.	Craig Aiken	5-10/166	Jr.	Western Carolina
3.	David Rhodes	6-2/195	Jr.	Central Florida
4.	Kerry Hayes	5-8/153	Jr.	Western Carolina
5.	Terry Mickens	6-2/195	Sr.	Florida A&M
6.	Tony Brooks	6-2/195	Sr.	Eastern Washington
7.	David McLeod	5-11/175	Sr.	James Madison
8.	Jesse Humphrey	6-3/190	Sr.	Morgan State
Rk.	TIGHT ENDS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1.	Craig Roubinek	6-3/245	Sr.	Lafayette
2.	Price Williams	6-4/247	Sr.	Richmond
3.	Paul Francisco	6-5/240	Sr.	Boston University
4.	Willie Felton	6-4/240	Sr.	Bethune-Cookman
5.	Hanz Hoag	6-3/220	Jr.	Evansville
6.	Tracy Cook	6-2/240	Sr.	Alcorn State
Rk.	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1.	Marcus Spears (T)	6-4/304	Sr.	Northwestern State
2.	Jody Schnug (T)	6-4/265	Sr.	Idaho
3.	Tom Walters (G)	6-3/260	Sr.	William & Mary
4.	Trent Pollard (T)	6-4/315	Sr.	Eastern Washington
5.	Chris Deaton (T)	6-5/258	Sr.	Marshall
6.	Blayne Rush (G)	6-3/278	Sr.	McNeese State
7.	Tyrone Brown (T)	6-4/275	Sr.	North Carolina A&T
8.	Matt Wildes (T)	6-4/269	Sr.	Delaware
Rk.	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1.	Matt Morrill (E)	6-4/260	Sr.	Delaware
2.	Alex Mash (E)	6-2/247	Sr.	Georgia Southern
3.	Chad Bratzke (E)	6-4/270	Sr.	Eastern Kentucky
4.	James Folston (E)	6-4/240	Sr.	Northeast Louisiana
5.	Casey Smith (E)	6-6/240	Sr.	Northern Iowa
6.	Matthew Steeple (T)	6-3/275	Sr.	Morgan State
7.	Kenny Jones (E)	6-2/245	Sr.	Samford
8.	Ryan Livezey (E)	6-5/235	Sr.	Furman
Rk.	LINEBACKERS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1.	Terry Irving	6-2/235	Sr.	McNeese State
2.	William King	5-9/211	Sr.	Marshall
3.	Andre Allen	6-2/190	Jr.	Northern Iowa
4.	Mario Perry	6-4/248	Sr.	Jackson State
5.	Duke Garrett	6-2/228	Jr.	Idaho
6.	Brent David	6-0/245	Sr.	Appalachian State
7.	Beau Smith	6-2/220	Sr.	Northern Arizona
8.	Rob Milanette	6-1/220	Sr.	Holy Cross
Rk.	DEFENSIVE BACKS	Ht./Wt.	Class	School
1.	Brian Randall	6-0/185	Sr.	Delaware State
2.	Randy Fuller	6-1/175	Sr.	Tennessee State
3.	Bob Jordan	5-10/190	Sr.	New Hampshire
4.	Sean Wallace	5-9/195	Sr.	Southern
5.	Lance Guidry	5-10/180	Sr.	McNeese State
6.	Sean Hill	5-11/189	Sr.	Montana State
7.	Adrian Smith	5-10/175	Sr.	Southwest Missouri State
8.	Cedric Walker	6-0/197	Sr.	Stephen F. Austin State



Keith Elias, RB, Princeton



Kerry Hayes, WR, Western Carolina



Matt Morrill, DE, Delaware



Andre Allen, LB, Northern Iowa

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:
Steve McNair,
QB, Alcorn State



DEFENSE:
Terry Irving,
LB, McNeese State

Nussmeier likes competition, not quarterback comparisons

By ERIC DIETERLE

Free-lance writer

Don't tell Idaho's Doug Nussmeier that he reminds you of another quarterback. Or that he is following in someone else's footsteps. Or that he should just relax and rely on his own natural ability.

And definitely don't tell him when to slide when he scrambles—unless you're his coach. And even that doesn't always work.

"He takes a lot of pleasure in running over somebody," Idaho Coach John L. Smith said. "Any time these guys are that competitive, it's hard to tell them what to do. But we've broken some of his bad habits."

As far as the rest of the Big Sky Conference is concerned, Nussmeier's worst habit is picking apart opposing defenses. He did that a lot last season while leading the Vandals to their fourth league title in six years. In the process, Nussmeier displaced Weber State's Jamie Martin as the Big Sky's top quarterback and earned league offensive Most Valuable Player honors.

That makes Nussmeier the best Idaho quarterback since John Friesz, a three-time All-America in the late 1980s. But don't tell Nussmeier that.

"Definitely last year I did carve out my own identity," the 6-foot-4, 210-pound Nussmeier said. "I felt real good because I felt I really established myself as a player."

Nussmeier knows he got a lot of support in 1992 from a veteran team that advanced to the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs, a luxury he may not enjoy in '93.

"Last year we had a great senior class, and they set the tone for the whole team," he said. "This year I'm the senior, so I've got to step it up."

That should be easy for a self-proclaimed "fierce competitor" who wants to become even better.

"I think any time you get satisfied with your performance, you're cheating yourself," Nussmeier said. "I think my footwork needs work, and I could have better drops. I just want to try to improve every day."

A lot more improvement could be disastrous for Idaho's Big Sky brethren. Last year, Nussmeier led both Martin and Washington State's much-acclaimed Drew Bledsoe in completion percentage, passing efficiency and touchdowns. He threw fewer interceptions than either. In addition, Nussmeier's career total offense average of 304 yards per game is a Big Sky record, and his 147.6 career passing efficiency mark is tops in Division I-AA history.

Not bad for a guy who ended up playing college football almost by accident. Smith remembers watching game films of a hot prospect at Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego, Ore., while he was an assistant coach at Washington State in 1987. He wasn't impressed with what he saw.

"Then, late in the film, this big lefthanded guy comes in throwing darts," Smith



Scramblin' man: Idaho quarterback Doug Nussmeier can beat opponents with his arm and his legs.

said.

The coach later visited the high school and asked to see the prospect. He was introduced to the player who had failed to impress him. Smith then asked about the big lefthander, only to discover Nussmeier playing free safety at the other end of the field.

Nussmeier was a junior at Lakeridge at the time. Smith tried to persuade the Cougars—unsuccessfully—to sign him the following year. So when Smith, an assistant at Idaho from 1982-85, became the Vandals' head coach in 1989, the first phone call he placed was to Nussmeier.

"He's probably the most competitive kid I've been around at that position," Smith said. "He's got that linebacker mentality."

One quarterback comparison Nussmeier doesn't seem to mind is with Steve Young of the San Francisco 49ers, one of the top running quarterbacks in the National Football League. Nussmeier rushed for 409 yards and six touchdowns last year, often sacrificing his body for a few extra yards.

"Yeah, I get a lot of that," Nussmeier said. "I really don't like sliding that much."

If he stays true to form, Nussmeier will be aiming straight at the competition again in 1993. And don't expect him to get out of the way. ■

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. IDAHO
2. EASTERN WASHINGTON
3. MONTANA
4. WEBER STATE
5. BOISE STATE
6. MONTANA STATE
7. NORTHERN ARIZONA
8. IDAHO STATE

ALL-BIG SKY TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
WR	BILL COCKHILL, Montana	Sr.
WR	TONY BROOKS, Eastern Washington	Sr.
TE	PAT MCNERNEY, Weber State	Jr.
T	TRENT POLLARD, Eastern Washington	Sr.
T	JODY SCHNUG, Idaho	Sr.
C	TIM HANSON, Montana State	Sr.
G	HAROLD FOX, Eastern Washington	Jr.
G	FRANK GARRETT, Montana	Sr.
QB	DOUG NUSSMEIER, Idaho	Sr.
RB	SHERRIDEN MAY, Idaho	Jr.
RB	HAROLD WRIGHT, Eastern Washington	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
DL	CHRIS SHEPHERD, Boise State	Sr.
DL	CHUCK WALTON, Northern Arizona	Sr.
DL	PAT HENDERSON, Weber State	Jr.
LB	DAN DOWNS, Montana	Jr.
LB	ERIC ESCANDON, Boise State	Sr.
LB	BEAU SMITH, Northern Arizona	Sr.
LB	DUKE GARRETT, Idaho	Jr.
DB	TODD ERICSON, Montana	Sr.
DB	MORGAN RYAN, Montana State	Sr.
DB	SEAN HILL, Montana State	Sr.
DB	JACKIE KELLOGG, Eastern Washington	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Class
PK	TERRY BELDEN, Northern Arizona	Sr.
P	TERRY BELDEN, Northern Arizona	Sr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

Doug Nussmeier, QB, Idaho



DEFENSE:

Todd Ericson, DB, Montana

BIG SKY TEAM CHARTS

BOISE STATE

Coach: Pokey Allen (first year; 64-26-2 overall, 7 years).

1992 record: 5-6. Big Sky: 3-4/5th.

Key players: Puni Alefaio, NT; Harry Beresford, OT; Chadwick Byrd, SS; Dave Deitz, TE; Eric Escandon, LB; Jarrett Hausske, WR; Kerry Lawyer, WR; DaWuan Miller, CB; Scott Monk, LB; Matt Romberg, OG; Greg Sabala, DE; Chris Shepherd, DT; Travis Stuart, QB; Danny Weeks, P; Mike Wilson, WR.

Strengths: The Broncos will have a new look under Allen, and the players are there to make that new style work. A strong defensive line, anchored by Shepherd, should complement a man-to-man pass defense. And the Broncos will be blitzing, adding another dimension to Escandon's role. On offense, returning starter Stuart faces the challenge of orchestrating multiple formations.

Weaknesses: A youthful secondary in a conference that emphasizes the pass.

Outlook: Trying to bounce back while adjusting to a new coach could stretch Boise State thin. But if the players respond to Allen's system, there's enough talent on hand to field a solid team.

Schedule: Rhode Island, Sept. 4; at Nevada, Sept. 11; Northeastern, Sept. 18; Stephen F. Austin State, Sept. 25; at Montana, Oct. 2; Northern Arizona, Oct. 9; at Weber State, Oct. 16; Idaho State, Oct. 23; Montana State, Oct. 30; Eastern Washington, Nov. 13; Idaho, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Broncos.

Site: Boise, Idaho.

EASTERN WASHINGTON

Coach: Dick Zornes (82-63-2, 14 years).

1992 record: 7-4 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs). Big Sky: 6-1/T1st.

Key players: Jason Anderson, WR; Rob Aronow, DL; Tony Brooks, WR; Shane Byington, LB; Harold Fox, OG; Raphael Guillory, FS; Jesse Hardt, TE; Jackie Kellogg, CB; Alex Lacson, K/P/WR; Lavon Major, DB; Jason Marsh, LB; Jason Martin, LB; Trent Pollard, OT; Craig Steinmetzer, DL; Harold Wright, RB.

Strengths: A powerful offensive line will open holes and provide time to pass, thanks to all-conference picks Fox and Pollard. That makes All-Big Sky performers Brooks and Wright even more dangerous. Plus, the Eagles are deep up front.

Weaknesses: The quarterback job will come down to either last season's backup or a redshirt junior college transfer. Defensively, four starters left a line that dominated most opponents; junior college transfers will have to deliver.

Outlook: The Eagles figured out how to win last season. Transfers will play a big part in this season's outcome, but the Eagles already have the players and the attitude to contend for the title.

Schedule: Northeast Louisiana, Sept. 4; at Sacramento State, Sept. 11; Montana, Sept. 25; at Weber State, Oct. 2; Portland (Ore.) State, Oct. 9; at Idaho, Oct. 16; Northern Arizona, Oct. 23; Idaho State, Oct. 30; at Montana State, Nov. 6; at Boise State, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Eagles.

Site: Cheney, Wash.

IDAHO

Coach: John L. Smith (33-15, 4 years).

1992 record: 9-3 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs). Big Sky: 6-1/T1st.

Key players: Alan Allen, WR; Spencer Folau, DT; Duke Garrett, LB; Mat Groshong, C; Mike Hollis, K; Miregi Huma, DB; Ahmani Johnson, DE; Jay Lukes, OL; Sherriden May, RB; Doug Nussmeier, QB; Jody Schnug, OT; Jason Shelt, LB; Brian Strandley, DT.

Strengths: Nussmeier unquestionably is the league's top signal-caller. The case might not be quite as clear at running back, but if May isn't the best, he's close. Those two are enough to make the Vandals a dangerous team. Also, the recruiting class was first-rate.

Weaknesses: A lack of experience with which to rebuild the offensive line, find new receivers and create a defense without line standout Jeff Robinson.

Outlook: Are two stars on offense enough to make a difference? Were the last two recruiting classes really as good as advertised? If the answers are yes-yes, it would be a no-no to think Idaho, the defending Big Sky champion, can't repeat.

Schedule: At Stephen F. Austin State, Sept. 4; Southwest Texas State, Sept. 11; at Weber State, Sept. 18; at Utah, Oct. 2; at Idaho State, Oct. 9; Eastern Washington, Oct. 16; at Montana State, Oct. 23; at Northern Arizona, Oct. 30; Montana, Nov. 6; Lehigh, Nov. 13; Boise State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Vandals.

Site: Moscow, Idaho.

IDAHO STATE

Coach: Brian McNeely (3-8, 1 year).

1992 record: 3-8. Big Sky: 1-6/8th.

Key players: Eric Alden, CB; Alfredo Anderson, QB; Brion Bethel, FS; Jeff Clark, C; Johnny Flowers, SS; Robert Ford, DT; Josh Gibbs, TE; Brian Holland, LB; Robert Johnson, TB; Rod Murphy, LB; Steve Mutsaers, OT; Andy Norell, PK; Kevin (Dusty) Rhodes, OT; Jeff Vrbas, OG; Rommie Wheeler, WR.

Strengths: If it takes two seasons for a new coach to make his impact felt, then this is the year for the Bengals. A housecleaning of the perennial losing program has opened the way for junior college transfers Rhodes, Mutsaers and Vrbas, who will form a huge offensive line. Other transfers and redshirts give the Bengals a strong secondary and linebacking corps.

Weaknesses: Returnees at quarterback and on the defensive line don't mean things are settled, as McNeely strives to upgrade the talent in those areas. There's little left in the way of senior leadership.

Outlook: Relying heavily on young talent and transfers, the Bengals will be competitive most of the time. The survivors of McNeely's purges are a good core around which to build a young team.

Schedule: Chadron (Neb.) State, Sept. 4; at Portland (Ore.) State, Sept. 11; at Montana, Sept. 18; Northern Arizona, Sept. 25; Mesa (Colo.) State, Oct. 2; Idaho, Oct. 9; Montana State, Oct. 16; at Boise State, Oct. 23; at Eastern Washington, Oct. 30; at New Mexico, Nov. 6; Weber State, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Bengals.

Site: Pocatello, Idaho.

MONTANA

Coach: Don Read (51-29, 7 years; 120-120-1 overall, 23 years).

1992 record: 6-5. Big Sky: 4-3/T3rd.

Key players: Lance Allen, DT; Shalon Baker, WR/PR; Damon Boddie, RB; Bill Cockhill, WR; Bruce Dotson, CB; Dan Downs, LB; Todd Ericson, FS; Carl Franks, CB; Frank Garrett, OG; Scott Gragg, OT; Scott Gursney, WR/P; Shawn Merz, DE; Chris Morton, RB; Kurt Schilling, LB; Eric Simonson, OT.

Strengths: The Grizzlies have the names, if not the numbers. Ericson and Downs are as good as they get in the Big Sky, and they should help make Montana's defense the best in the conference. Gragg and Garrett anchor the offensive line, while Cockhill leads an experienced receiver corps.

Weaknesses: This is where the numbers come in. Montana doesn't have much depth, especially in the trenches, so injuries would be devastating. Two young backups will vie for the quarterback job.

Outlook: Read calls this a gray team, because he's not sure which way it's going to go. A schedule that features Oregon early in the season might bring some color to the scene, but if it also brings too many bumps and bruises, Montana's title hopes will suffer. Still, the predictions that the Grizzlies would challenge in 1992 simply might have been a year early.

Schedule: South Dakota State, Sept. 4; at Oregon, Sept. 11; Idaho State, Sept. 18; at Eastern Washington, Sept. 25; Boise State, Oct. 2; Weber State, Oct. 9; at Northern Arizona, Oct. 16; Jacksonville (Ala.) State, Oct. 23; Sacramento State, Oct. 30; at Idaho, Nov. 6; at Montana State, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Grizzlies.

Site: Missoula, Mont.

MONTANA STATE

Coach: Cliff Hysell (4-7, 1 year).

1992 record: 4-7. Big Sky: 2-5/T6th.

Key players: Clint Bryan, WR; Cory Brye, OG; Tim Hanson, C; Jason Hicks, DE; Sean Hill, CB; Eric Hopkins, WR; Chad Mayer, QB; Clint Morton, TB; Kerry Pribnow, OT; Wade Rademacher, DT; Morgan Ryan, SS; T.T. Ryan, FB; Tyler Sharp, LB; Mark Sims, DE; Brock Spencer, QB (transfer/Brigham Young).

Strengths: Second-year Coach Hysell is making progress, most of it on the offensive line. Defensively, three starters return up front, while three others key the Bobcats' multi-back scheme.

Weaknesses: This is a young team. The kicking game is a total mystery, tight end likely will be manned by a true freshman and quarterback is a scramble. But one member of that scramble is Brigham Young transfer Brock Spencer.

Outlook: The Bobcats could make some noise if they have anything left after a rugged non-league schedule that includes Washington State.

Schedule: At Western Illinois, Sept. 4; at Washington State, Sept. 11; Fort Lewis (Colo.), Sept. 18; Weber State, Sept. 25; at Northern Arizona, Oct. 2; Southern Utah State, Oct. 9; at Idaho State, Oct. 16; Idaho, Oct. 23; at Boise State, Oct. 30; Eastern Washington, Nov. 6; Montana, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Bobcats.

Site: Bozeman, Mont.

NORTHERN ARIZONA

Coach: Steve Axman (12-21, 3 years).

1992 record: 4-7. Big Sky: 2-5/T6th.

Key players: Rod Alexander, WR; Terry Belden, P/K; Jeff Bergman, LB; Alex Calderwood, WR; Matt Elliott, OL; Jeff Lewis, QB; Chris Muti, OL; Len Raney, RB; Greg Semas, DL; Beau Smith, LB; Scott Strini, LB; Kevin Sullivan, WR; Chuck Walton, DL; Chris West, DL.

Strengths: Thirty-seven lettermen return from last year's team, which lost five of its games by a total of 22 points. Eight returning starters from the defense, which tied for first statistically in the Big Sky, will put the hurt on the league's offenses.

Weaknesses: Last season's receivers struggled, so they'll need to prove they learned something. Lewis, thrust into the starting quarterback slot as a redshirt freshman when John Bonds was injured, gained experience but has to prove he can handle the No. 1 job.

Outlook: Held steady by a defense that should be near the top again, Northern Arizona needs to put some potency back into its spread offense. If Lewis comes through, the Lumberjacks just might turn those close games around.

Schedule: At Southern Utah State, Sept. 4; North Texas, Sept. 11; Cal State Northridge, Sept. 18; at Idaho State, Sept. 25; Montana State, Oct. 2; at Boise State, Oct. 9; Montana, Oct. 16; at Eastern Washington, Oct. 23; Idaho, Oct. 30; at Weber State, Nov. 6; Valparaiso, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Lumberjacks.

Site: Flagstaff, Ariz.

WEBER STATE

Coach: Dave Arslanian (22-23, 4 years).

1992 record: 6-5. Big Sky: 4-3/T3rd.

Key players: Jantz Afuvali, LB; Miller Atagi, OG; Nate Burchette, WR; Todd Casey, OG; David Cunningham, LB; Steve Filiaga, DT; Pat Henderson, DL; Mark Hood, CB; Wade Lindley, TE; Pat McNerney, TE; Lee Nembhard, OT; Fred Safford, WR; Trevor Shaw, WR; Dell Stilson, WR; Richard Tanuvasa, OT; Brian Walker, DB; Fredrick X, CB.

Strengths: The Wildcats won't lead the Big Sky in frequent-flyer miles—with seven home games, Weber State has the schedule in its favor. The other interesting number is four—that's how many quarterbacks will contest for the spot vacated by Jamie Martin. The winner will be throwing to a talented and deep corps of receivers.

Weaknesses: The offensive line needs some retooling, and an able ballcarrier must be found. One of the quarterback prospects must emerge as the clear leader to settle the offense. Defensively, the Wildcats lost gifted lineman Tim Otton to graduation.

Outlook: With three games at home to start the season, the Wildcats have the chance to get on track and answer their quarterback questions. But game three is against Idaho, so Weber State will find out early if it can hang with the league's top half.

Schedule: Sonoma (Calif.) State, Sept. 4; Cal State Northridge, Sept. 11; Idaho, Sept. 18; at Montana State, Sept. 25; Eastern Washington, Oct. 2; at Montana, Oct. 9; Boise State, Oct. 16; at Nevada, Oct. 23; Southern Utah State, Oct. 30; Northern Arizona, Nov. 6; at Idaho State, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Wildcats.

Site: Ogden, Utah.

Text by Eric Dieterle.

Harrison figures to join ranks of ex-Leathernecks in the NFL

By SCOTT HEIBERGER

Peoria Journal Star

An exhausted Rodney Harrison slouched onto a bench in the Western Illinois weight room last season, still dizzy from a hit he delivered a few minutes earlier during a victory over Eastern Illinois.

Random streaks of gray from the opponents' helmets decorated his own purple headgear, reminders of the 12 tackles he had registered. He also had returned a fumble 49 yards for a touchdown and intercepted a pass in the end zone.

"Not now," Harrison said, waving off an interviewer who found him sitting alone while teammates celebrated in the adjoining locker room.

The groggy Harrison wasn't being rude. He simply had let his play speak for him. And last year, the college football world listened.

The 6-foot-1, 195-pound free safety earned NCAA Division I-AA second-team All-America honors from The Associated Press and The Sports Network, the only sophomore defensive player in the country to attain such honors.

Despite Harrison's success at a young age, Western Illinois defensive coordinator Bill Wilt doesn't worry about him becoming complacent.

"He doesn't know what complacent is," Wilt said. "I think there are higher goals he wants to achieve."

The Western Illinois coaching staff thinks Harrison has the potential to follow former Leatherneck free safeties Mike Wagner and Lamar McGriggs into the National Football

League. Wagner was a member of four Pittsburgh Steeler teams that won Super Bowls. McGriggs has played the last two seasons for the New York Giants.

Other former Leathernecks who played in the NFL last year include Miami Dolphins linebacker Bryan Cox, Buffalo Bills wide receiver Don Beebe and Green Bay Packers offensive lineman Frank Winters.

But Harrison said he isn't looking that far ahead.

"In the back of my mind I feel like people are saying, 'Well, Rodney isn't going to work as hard anymore because he made All-American,'" Harrison said. "That's why I'm working extra hard. I'm going to try to come in first in all the drills I do. I want to stick out like a sore thumb."

Harrison is a vicious hitter with excellent range. He ranked second on a 7-4 Western Illinois squad with 101 tackles last season (56 solo).

"A lot of it is instinct, a lot of it is studying film, but then it's also just taking chances and playing football," Harrison said.

Harrison had just one interception last season. But that may be because he sometimes chose to go for the big hit rather than the pick.

"I'm still going to be aggressive this season, but I'm also going to try and get the numbers as far as the picks," Harrison said.

Wilt said Western Illinois plans to blitz Harrison more and devise schemes to allow him additional freedom to roam the middle, perhaps boosting his interception total.

"You want to get him around the football as much as you can," Wilt said. ■



Still striving: Despite earning All-America honors last year, Western Illinois free safety Rodney Harrison is determined to do better in '93.

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. NORTHERN IOWA
2. SOUTHWEST MISSOURI ST.
3. EASTERN ILLINOIS
4. WESTERN ILLINOIS
5. INDIANA STATE
6. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
7. ILLINOIS STATE

ALL-GATEWAY TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
WR	DEMETRIUS DOWLER, Indiana State	Sr.
WR	BILLY SWAIN, Southern Illinois	Sr.
TE	MIKE ANDERSON, Northern Iowa	Jr.
T	ELBERT BETTS, Illinois State	Sr.
T	JOHN HERRIN, Northern Iowa	Sr.
C	LUKE HAKE, Southwest Missouri State	Soph.
G	SHAWN MOORE, Indiana State	Sr.
G	MIKE STRICKLAND, Southern Illinois	Sr.
QB	JEFF THORNE, Eastern Illinois	Sr.
RB	ANTHONY PEGUES, Southwest Missouri St.	Sr.
RB	DAVID WRIGHT, Indiana State	Soph.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
DL	CLINT CULLEN, Illinois State	Sr.
DL	CASEY SMITH, Northern Iowa	Sr.
DL	MIKE STRICKLAND, Southwest Missouri St.	Sr.
LB	ANDRE ALLEN, Northern Iowa	Jr.
LB	SHAVEZ HAWKINS, Eastern Illinois	Sr.
LB	KEN McMILLAN, Western Illinois	Sr.
LB	CHRIS STEVENS, Illinois State	Soph.
DB	RODNEY HARRISON, Western Illinois	Jr.
DB	RAY McELROY, Eastern Illinois	Jr.
DB	CLINT SMOTHERS, Southern Illinois	Sr.
DB	ADRION SMITH, Southwest Missouri State	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Class
PK	SCOTT OBERMEIER, Northern Iowa	Soph.
P	ROSS SCHULTE, Western Illinois	Jr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

Jeff Thorne, QB, Eastern Illinois



DEFENSE:

Ken McMillan, LB, Western Illinois

GATEWAY TEAM CHARTS

EASTERN ILLINOIS

Coach: Bob Spoo (33-35, 6 years).
1992 record: 5-6. Gateway: 2-4/T4th.
Key players: Tim Carver, LB; Shavez Hawkins, LB; Chris Hicks, RB; Clint Hyde, OG; Steve Largent, K; Mike Martinez, FS; Ray McElroy, CB; Corey Miceli, OG; Matt Sweeney, LB; Jeff Thorne, QB.
Strengths: Thorne is back for his fourth season as the starting quarterback. Two of the top three rushers and receivers return, as does accurate kicker Largent. Defensively, McElroy did not allow a touchdown pass last season, blocked three kicks and averaged 21.8 yards on kickoff returns. Linebackers Hawkins and Carver combined for 212 tackles.
Weaknesses: Eastern Illinois must fill two sizable voids on each line, and a go-to receiver needs to step forward. The Panthers face seven road games.
Outlook: With Thorne at the helm and speedy receivers and sure-handed backs on hand, this team will be explosive. If the defense can put the ball in the offense's hands, Eastern Illinois will be in the title hunt.
Schedule: At Murray State, Sept. 4; at McNeese State, Sept. 11; at Navy, Sept. 18; Western Illinois, Sept. 25; at Indiana State, Oct. 2; at Northern Iowa, Oct. 16; Illinois State, Oct. 23; Southwest Missouri State, Oct. 30; Northwestern State, Nov. 6; at Western Kentucky, Nov. 13; at Southern Illinois, Nov. 20.
Nickname: Panthers.
Site: Charleston, Ill.

ILLINOIS STATE

Coach: Jim Heacock (21-34, 5 years).
1992 record: 5-6. Gateway: 2-4/T4th.
Key players: Elbert Betts, OT; Clint Cullen, DT; James Dowdy, FS; Keith Goodnight, RB; Corey Mackey, OT; Don Martin, SS; Chris Stevens, LB; Rob Wendlick, DT; Frank West, CB; Mike Williams, DE.
Strengths: The Redbirds are solid on both lines. Defensive tackles Cullen and Wendlick are seasoned veterans. Betts and Mackey are big, strong experienced offensive tackles. There are talented and tested performers at linebacker and in the secondary.
Weaknesses: This team is still young. Illinois State won't have all-time Gateway rushing leader Toby Davis to rely on and must find a place-kicker and a punter.
Outlook: Hard-nosed defense is a trademark at Illinois State and that should continue. The Redbirds have a new offensive coordinator in Chuck Dickerson and the changes in philosophy he brings may ease the loss of Davis. Meanwhile, Goodnight will get a chance to demonstrate his skills in the backfield.
Schedule: Southwest State (Minn.), Sept. 4; At Ball State, Sept. 11; McNeese State, Sept. 18; at Hofstra (N.Y.), Sept. 25; Western Illinois, Oct. 2; at Southwest Missouri State, Oct. 9; Indiana State, Oct. 16; at Eastern Illinois, Oct. 23; Northern Iowa, Oct. 30; at Southern Illinois, Nov. 6; Youngstown State, Nov. 13.
Nickname: Redbirds.
Site: Normal, Ill.

INDIANA STATE

Coach: Dennis Raetz (68-76-1, 13 years).
1992 record: 4-7. Gateway: 2-4/T4th.
Key players: Rahsaan Baskerville, DT; Kirk Christensen, C; Scott Crenshaw, WR; Demetrius Dowler, WR; Matt Egloff, LB; Von Ganaway, FS; Larry Gauer, TE; Tim Giebels, OT; Kip Hennelly, QB; Tim Herrin, OT; Shawn Moore, OG; Ken Mullen, SS; Mike Nelson, LB; Michael Wilson, CB; David Wright, TB.
Strengths: The Sycamores feature an offense with the speed and power to break open any game, or grind it out when necessary. Defensive coordinator Tim McGuire returns for a second stint at Indiana State to help shore up that unit.
Weaknesses: The defense allowed 31 points and 420 yards per game in '92. The Sycamores need to find a punter and a place-kicker, as well as a fullback.
Outlook: McGuire's ability to shape a capable defense is critical, and he won't have much time. Indiana State plays five of its first six games on the road.
Schedule: At Air Force, Sept. 4; at Minnesota, Sept. 11; at Southwest Missouri State, Sept. 25; Eastern Illinois, Oct. 2; at Northern Iowa, Oct. 9; at Illinois State, Oct. 16; Western Kentucky, Oct. 23; Southern Illinois, Oct. 30; at Youngstown State, Nov. 6; West Virginia Tech, Nov. 13; Western Illinois, Nov. 20.



Elbert Betts: Illinois State.

Nickname: Sycamores.
Site: Terre Haute, Ind.

NORTHERN IOWA

Coach: Terry Allen (39-11, 4 years).
1992 record: 12-2 (including 2-1 in I-AA playoffs).
Gateway: 5-1/1st.
Key players: Andre Allen, LB; Mike Anderson, TE; John Herrin, OT; Jason McCleary, DB; Tim Mosley, SE/P; Donald Mumma, C; Scott Obermeier, K; Jason Reading, OG; Casey Smith, DE; Ed Threath, HB; Kurt Warner, QB; Paul Wolf, LB.
Strengths: Defensively, seven starters return. Quarterback Warner is eager to show off his strong, accurate arm. Threath emerged as a dangerous outside runner and receiver last season. The offensive line returns intact, as does the kicking game.
Weaknesses: This team won't have the big-play talents of seven departed all-league seniors. Their replacements are capable, but largely unproven. Overall depth is a concern and new leadership must emerge.
Outlook: The defense could be a punishing group, but the offense will have to avoid turnovers and control the ball. A tough non-conference schedule can either work for or against Northern Iowa, as can the expectations that will follow last season's success.
Schedule: At McNeese State, Sept. 4; at Wyoming, Sept. 11; Jacksonville (Ala.) State, Sept. 18; Southwest Texas State, Sept. 25; at Southwest Missouri State, Oct. 2; Indiana State, Oct. 9; Eastern Illinois, Oct. 16; at Western Illinois, Oct. 23; at Illinois State, Oct. 30; Morehead State, Nov. 6; Southern Illinois, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Panthers.
Site: Cedar Falls, Ia.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Coach: Bob Smith (15-29, 4 years; 32-55-1 overall, 8 years).
1992 record: 4-7. Gateway: 2-4/T4th.
Key players: LaVance Banks, WR; Greg Brown, RB; Kevin Cager, DB; J.J. Chaney, DB; Ryan Given, K; Joe Hay, DE; Jason Jakovich, OL; Jeff Johnson, TE; Jim Murphy, LB; Clint Smothers, DB; Mike Strickland, OG; Billy Swain, WR; David Wargo, P; Jeff Zoeteman, C.
Strengths: Swain, Banks and Brown are three productive veterans at skill positions. All-league guard Strickland anchors the offensive line. Smothers is a prime-time defensive back.
Weaknesses: Southern Illinois returns only five starters on each side of the ball. The defensive line must be rebuilt, along with the linebacking corps.
Outlook: Southern Illinois' veterans must produce while a platoon of new players matures. A difficult schedule may not allow that to happen.
Schedule: Washburn (Kan.), Sept. 11; at Toledo, Sept. 18; at Arkansas State, Sept. 25; at Northern Illinois, Oct. 2; at Western Illinois, Oct. 9; Western Kentucky, Oct. 16; Southwest Missouri State, Oct. 23; at Indiana State, Oct. 30; Illinois State, Nov. 6; at Northern Iowa, Nov. 13; Eastern Illinois, Nov. 20.
Nickname: Salukis.
Site: Carbondale, Ill.

SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE

Coach: Jesse Branch (44-33-1, 7 years).
1992 record: 6-5. Gateway: 4-2/T2nd.
Key players: David Dow, OT; Cameron Flemming, LB; DeLaun Fowler, LB; Brian Gillespie, LB; Bobby Godwin, DE; Luke Hake, C; Anthony Pegues, RB; Adrien Smith, CB; Mike Strickland, NT; Ken Whittaker, QB.
Strengths: The Bears' stable of talented running backs will work behind a big, experienced line. The secondary returns all four starters, including stand-out Smith. The schedule features six home games.
Weaknesses: Southwest Missouri State needs better passing production. The defense is thin at linebacker, and a place-kicker must be found.
Outlook: If the defense can stop the run and keep the ball in the offense's hands, the Bears will be hard to beat.
Schedule: Southeast Missouri State, Sept. 4; at Oklahoma State, Sept. 11; at North Texas, Sept. 18; Indiana State, Sept. 25; Northern Iowa, Oct. 2; Illinois State, Oct. 9; Jacksonville (Ala.) State, Oct. 16; at Southern Illinois, Oct. 23; at Eastern Illinois, Oct. 30; at Western Illinois, Nov. 6; Samford, Nov. 13.
Nickname: Bears.
Site: Springfield, Mo.

WESTERN ILLINOIS

Coach: Randy Ball (17-16-1, 3 years).
1992 record: 7-4. Gateway: 4-2/T2nd.
Key players: Shane Brinton, DT; Rodney Harrison, FS; Richard Huddleston, OG; Adam Love, OT; Kendall McDonald, HB; Ken McMillan, LB; Addison Morgan, DB; Ross Schulte, P; Don Spencer, DB; Tony Teague, TE.
Strengths: Opponents will have trouble stopping Western Illinois' running game. The Leathernecks possess one of the top kicking duos in the league, and the defense features All-America players McMillan and Harrison.
Weaknesses: The Leathernecks lack veteran performers at quarterback and receiver. The defensive line must improve.
Outlook: If a new quarterback can hook up with a new cast of receivers to give the offense some balance and if the defense shows improvement, Western Illinois could be a contender.
Schedule: Montana State, Sept. 4; at Eastern Michigan, Sept. 18; at Eastern Illinois, Sept. 25; at Illinois State, Oct. 2; Southern Illinois, Oct. 9; at Central Florida, Oct. 16; Northern Iowa, Oct. 23; at Western Kentucky, Oct. 30; Southwest Missouri State, Nov. 6; St. Ambrose (Ia.), Nov. 13; at Indiana State, Nov. 20.
Nickname: Leathernecks.
Site: Macomb, Ill.

Text by Doug Newhoff.

Battered opponents can attest that Zingo is a bundle of energy

By FRANK BENSON

Ithaca Journal

For perhaps the most revealing insight regarding Chris Zingo, consider this from Jim Hofher: "He's kind of a freak."

Don't get Hofher wrong—he loves the guy. Zingo is a linebacker at Cornell, and Hofher is his coach. It's just that when it comes to zeroing in on the ball and making mincemeat of whoever might be holding it, Zingo is in a class by himself. If that makes him a "freak" in Hofher's book, so be it.

"His rate of intensity is really high—as high as you'll find in any football player," Hofher said.

How intent is Zingo on thrashing ballcarriers? Let's just say that since Zingo arrived at Cornell in 1990, he has been on a search-and-destroy mission.

As a two-year starter for the Big Red, the senior co-captain has twice broken the school record for total tackles in a season. Last year, Zingo recorded 179 tackles, including 127 solo stops. That gave him 339 tackles over two seasons.

"It's almost a joke," Hofher said. "When we're watching film, it's sometimes like the 'Chris Zingo Show.' We can't go a minute without seeing him making a stop."

All of this from a lightly recruited, 5-foot-11, 212-pounder who is not exactly a giant in cleats.

"You don't have to be a big man to play this game," Hofher said. "It helps, but it's more important to give it the effort on each play. That's what Zingo does."

Zingo's pursuit is legendary. Many Ivy League coaches believe the best way to attack Cornell is to run right at Zingo because he's often off at the snap of the ball.

"All I know is that if I heard the name Zingo at Schoellkopf Field one more time, I was ready to take the early bus back to Providence," Brown Coach Mickey Kwiatkowski said after a game at the Ithaca, N.Y., campus last fall. "He seemingly was everywhere—stopping the running game, knocking down passes and hurrying the passer. That was quite a performance by an outstanding defensive player."

According to Hofher, Zingo was a team leader the first time he took the field for Cornell. Until this year, freshmen were not allowed to play varsity football in the Ivy League, so Zingo spent the 1990 season on the freshman squad. Of course, he led that unit in tackles.

But that was just the beginning for Zingo. His finest hour may have come in his seventh varsity start, at Brown in 1991. As Cornell rallied to score a come-from-behind 20-17 victory, Zingo made a school-record 27 tackles. On that day, Brown executed 86 plays and Zingo stopped almost one-third of them.

Another memorable play on the Zingo hit list includes a fourth-and-one stop against



Take cover! Chris Zingo has been on a search-and-destroy mission since he first came to Cornell in 1990.

Dartmouth last fall. On that play, Zingo hit Big Green quarterback Jay Fiedler so quickly that he didn't even have time to hand off the ball.

"If there is any secret to his game, it's his quickness," Hofher said. "He just explodes off the ball. And he chases it down—he always wants to be where the ball is. He's got a great feel for the game. He really understands it."

Zingo doesn't see it that way.

"I was in the right place at the right time a lot, and I reacted correctly to some of the things the offenses tried against us," he said. "We had a pretty good defense, and it was a real team effort. The defensive line made my job easier—they forced the flow and plugged up holes, and the running backs (came) in my direction."

With players like Zingo, Cornell has a chance to win the Ivy title in 1993. The Big Red came close last year, but lost its last two games to finish 7-3 overall and 4-3 in league play.

"We know what we have to do to win it, and we can," Zingo said.

"Hey, with guys like (Zingo) on your side," Hofher said, "you always have a chance." ■

TSN

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. PRINCETON
2. CORNELL
3. PENNSYLVANIA
4. DARTMOUTH
5. COLUMBIA
6. HARVARD
7. YALE
8. BROWN

ALL-IVY TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
WR	CHARLIE BUCKLEY, Brown	Jr.
WR	MARK BEGERT, Harvard	Sr.
TE	GREG BLOEDORN, Cornell	Jr.
T	JASON SLAVIK, Harvard	Sr.
T	CHRIS CYTERSKI, Princeton	Sr.
C	IAN LOMBARD, Princeton	Sr.
G	WALTON SMITH, Brown	Sr.
G	KEENAN SMITH, Yale	Sr.
QB	JAY FIEDLER, Dartmouth	Sr.
RB	KEITH ELIAS, Princeton	Sr.
RB	KEITH PRICE, Yale	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
DL	REGGIE HARRIS, Princeton	Sr.
DL	JIM RENNA, Princeton	Sr.
DL	MICHAEL TURNER, Pennsylvania	Jr.
LB	CHRIS ZINGO, Cornell	Sr.
LB	PAT GOODWILLIE, Pennsylvania	Sr.
LB	ANDY BERLIN, Pennsylvania	Sr.
LB	JOHN VITULLO, Cornell	Jr.
DB	TIM HAWKES, Columbia	Sr.
DB	RYAN BLATTENBERGER, Cornell	Sr.
DB	JASON FELL, Dartmouth	Sr.
DB	BRIAN MANGENE, Princeton	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Class
PK	JEFF HOGG, Princeton	Sr.
P	MATT GOLDEN, Princeton	Sr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

Jay Fiedler, QB, Dartmouth



DEFENSE:

Chris Zingo, LB, Cornell

IVY LEAGUE TEAM CHARTS

BROWN

Coach: Mickey Kwiatkowski (3-27, 3 years; 71-54 overall, 12 years).

1992 record: 0-10. Ivy: 0-7/8th.

Key players: Rene Abdallah, OG; Shawn Birken, OL; Charlie Buckley, WR; Randolph Eddy, OT; Tom Hornsby, TE; Todd Hunter, LB; Karl Lozanne, FS; Michael Murphy, LB; Gordon Myers, QB; John Powers, SS; Charlie Seelandt, OT; Kevin Sharkey, HB; Eugene Smith, DB; Walton Smith, OG; Carl Steffens, DB; Andy Waldeck, OT.

Strengths: The league's second-best secondary returns three starters, including Lozanne, who recorded 26 solo tackles and assisted on 50 others. Steffens is back after missing five games due to injury. Buckley returns at wide receiver and four starters are back on the offensive line, including co-captain Walton Smith.

Weaknesses: Three quarterbacks were lost to graduation, so there's a lot of pressure on Myers, a sophomore, to emerge. At running back, replacements must be found for the departed Brett Brown and Bruce Smith.

Outlook: Kwiatkowski, one of the league's most personable coaches, will need his sense of humor this year. The Bears didn't win a game in '92 and figure to struggle again.

Schedule: At Yale, Sept. 18; at Lehigh, Sept. 25; Rhode Island, Oct. 2; Princeton, Oct. 9; Bucknell, Oct. 16; at Pennsylvania, Oct. 23; Cornell, Oct. 30; Harvard, Nov. 6; at Dartmouth, Nov. 13; Columbia, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Bears.

Site: Providence, R.I.

COLUMBIA

Coach: Ray Tellier (6-34, 4 years).

1992 record: 3-7. Ivy: 2-5/6th.

Key players: Chad Andrzejewski, QB; Rick Brenders, LB; Tim Hawkes, DB; John Klosek, FB; Sean Nichols, DE; Adam Yeloushan, DT.

Strengths: Andrzejewski, a strong-armed quarterback, threw for 1,997 yards and nine touchdowns and ran for six others last season. He'll have a solid fullback (Klosek) and an experienced offensive line helping him out in '93.

Weaknesses: Linebacker Des Werthman, the heart of the '92 Lions, is gone and will be hard to replace. The wide-receiving corps has been depleted by graduation. Klosek is the only experienced running back.

Outlook: It's always a struggle in Manhattan, but Tellier believes his team made real progress in winning its final two games. Maybe so, but there's still a long way to go.

Schedule: At Harvard, Sept. 18; Fordham, Sept. 25; Lafayette, Oct. 9; Pennsylvania, Oct. 16; Yale, Oct. 23; at Princeton, Oct. 30; Dartmouth, Nov. 6; at Cornell, Nov. 13; at Brown, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Lions.

Site: New York.

CORNELL

Coach: Jim Hofner (19-11, 3 years).

1992 record: 7-3. Ivy: 4-3/4th.

Key players: Aaron Berryman, WR; Ryan Blattenberger, SS; Greg Bloedorn, TE; Dick Emmet, DT; Pete Fitzpatrick, TB; Rich George, OG; Jeff Gilkinson, OG; Terry Golden, CB; Bill Lazor, QB; Ron Mateo, WR; Mike McKean, OT; Pat Paquette, OT; John Vitullo, LB; David Woods, DT; Chris Zingo, LB.

Strengths: The Big Red has perhaps the best offensive and defensive players in the league in Lazor, who finished 12th in NCAA Division I-AA in total offense, and Zingo, a superb linebacker. The defensive line is deep with the return of Emmet and Woods.

Weaknesses: Both record-setting tailback Scott Oliaro and fullback Pete Case are gone, meaning Fitzpatrick, a fine kick returner, will have to step in as a starter. Only one starter returns on the offensive line, and big-play wide receiver Mike Jamin could be tough to replace.

Outlook: This team has a lot of experienced players, so Cornell should be in the thick of the Ivy League race.

Schedule: At Princeton, Sept. 18; Colgate, Sept. 25; at Lehigh, Oct. 2; Harvard, Oct. 9; Fordham, Oct. 16; at Dartmouth, Oct. 23; at Brown, Oct. 30; Yale, Nov. 6; Columbia, Nov. 13; at Pennsylvania, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Big Red.

Site: Ithaca, N.Y.



Mike Giardi: Harvard.

DARTMOUTH

Coach: John Lyons (8-2, 1 year).

1992 record: 8-2. Ivy: 6-1/1st.

Key players: Brian Bajari, TB; Josh Bloom, LB; Ken Bower, DT; John Clifford, WR; Nat Cook, C; Matt Feeley, LB; Jason Fell, SS; Jay Fiedler, QB; Ken Gordon, TB; John Hyland, WR; Gerry LaMontagne, DT; Andy MacDonald, OT; Jim McGeehan, FS; George Neos, LB; Joe Perry, CB; Ryan Spayde, LB; Brian White, CB.

Strengths: Fiedler broke 11 school records and tied one en route to winning the Bushnell Cup as the Ivy League's Player of the Year in 1992. He was the nation's top-ranked passer (including Division I-A) and a third-team All-America. Neos, a fifth-year player, also was a first-team All-Ivy pick. Eight of 11 starters return on defense.

Weaknesses: The backfield will be new following the graduation of leading rusher Greg Hoffmeister. Juniors Gordon and Bajari must step up. Replacing place-kicker Dennis Durkin won't be easy, either.

Outlook: The Big Green is loaded again. Dartmouth needs big numbers from Fiedler, and he usually delivers them.

Schedule: At Pennsylvania, Sept. 18; Holy Cross, Sept. 25; at Bucknell, Oct. 2; New Hampshire, Oct. 9; at Yale, Oct. 16; Cornell, Oct. 23; Harvard, Oct. 30; at Columbia, Nov. 6; Brown, Nov. 13; Princeton, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Big Green.

Site: Hanover, N.H.

HARVARD

Coach: Joe Restic (114-90-6, 22 years).

1992 record: 3-7. Ivy: 3-4/5th.

Key players: Doug Anderson, DE; Mark Begert, WR; Toby Brundage, C; Jay Ellis, CB; Kevin Fagan, OG; Mike Giardi, QB; Ed Kinney, DE; Frank Lilly, TE; Joe McClellan, LB; Dehdan Miller, DE; David Morgan, P/QB; Jon Ponusuk, SS/PR; Brian Ramer, LB; David Rogers, OT; Esan Simon, HB; Jason Slavik, OT.

Strengths: Giardi, the league's second-best quarterback behind Dartmouth's Jay Fiedler, operates well in the multi-flex offense. A two-year starter, he is Harvard's all-time passing leader. The offensive line has four starters back, including second-team all-league tackle Slavik. Ramer is a top linebacker, and the entire defensive line is back.

Weaknesses: The Crimson has lost three of its top four running backs and its top two wide receivers. The secondary also is new.

Outlook: Harvard has struggled in recent years but could be on the upswing in '93, which will be Restic's final season. All eyes are on Giardi.

Schedule: Columbia, Sept. 18; at William & Mary, Sept. 25; Lafayette, Oct. 2; at Cornell, Oct. 9; Holy Cross, Oct. 16; Princeton, Oct. 23; at Dartmouth, Oct.

30; at Brown, Nov. 6; Pennsylvania, Nov. 13; at Yale, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Crimson.

Site: Cambridge, Mass.

PENNSYLVANIA

Coach: Al Bagnoli (7-3, 1 year; 93-22 overall, 11 years).

1992 record: 7-3. Ivy: 5-2/3rd.

Key players: Andy Berlin, LB; Chris Fragakis, OT; Pat Goodwillie, LB; Jim Magallanes, SS; Jim McGeehan, QB; Michael Turner, DT.

Strengths: The Quakers have six starters back on a defense that finished sixth last season in Division I-AA. Goodwillie was the Ivy League's top rookie in 1992, and Magallanes is a top safety. Offensively, McGeehan has an experienced line to work behind.

Weaknesses: It will be tough to replace first-team all-league running back Sundiata Rush. Five of last year's top six receivers are gone as well.

Outlook: Penn was perhaps the best team in the league at the end of last season, and it should contend again if the offense can score.

Schedule: Dartmouth, Sept. 18; at Bucknell, Sept. 25; Fordham, Oct. 2; at Colgate, Oct. 9; at Columbia, Oct. 16; Brown, Oct. 23; at Yale, Oct. 30; Princeton, Nov. 6; at Harvard, Nov. 13; Cornell, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Quakers.

Site: Philadelphia.

PRINCETON

Coach: Steve Tosches (38-21-1, 6 years).

1992 record: 8-2. Ivy: 6-1/1st.

Key players: Peter Bailey, FB; Mark Berkowitz, SS; Chris Cyterski, OT; Keith Elias, RB; Joel Foote, QB; Matt Golden, P; Reggie Harris, DT; Jeff Hogg, PK; Brian Kazan, DE; Ian Lombard, C; Brian Mangene, FS; Scott Miller, OG; Jim Renna, DT; Marc Ross, WR; Carl Teter, OT.

Strengths: The Tigers have the league's top backfield with Elias, who averaged 157.5 rushing yards per game last season, Bailey and Foote, a senior quarterback who doesn't throw interceptions. Harris is the best defensive lineman in the conference.

Weaknesses: There are no returning starters at wide receiver or linebacker. The offensive line returns two starters but has been beset by injuries.

Outlook: Princeton has tied for two Ivy League titles in the last four years and has won a league-high 38 games over the last six seasons. The Tigers will score a lot of points; if their defense comes through, they could win the league title again.

Schedule: Cornell, Sept. 18; at Lafayette, Sept. 25; Holy Cross, Oct. 2; at Brown, Oct. 9; Lehigh, Oct. 16; at Harvard, Oct. 23; Columbia, Oct. 30; at Pennsylvania, Nov. 6; Yale, Nov. 13; at Dartmouth, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Tigers.

Site: Princeton, N.J.

YALE

Coach: Carmen Cozza (166-92-5, 28 years).

1992 record: 4-6. Ivy: 2-5/6th.

Key players: Jim Benitez, DL; John Calce, OL; David Dixon, FB; Martin Feeny, LB; Dave Feuerstein, WR; Chris Hetherington, QB; Dave Iwan, WR; John Lykourizos, DL; Dan Mellish, DB; Steve Mills, QB; John Patterson, DB; Keith Price, TB; Carl Ricci, LB; John Saunders, LB; Keenan Smith, OG.

Strengths: Price (1,141 yards last year) is one of the best running backs in the league. Yale has talented receivers, too, particularly Iwan, who does double duty as a punt returner. Saunders and Ricci are solid linebackers.

Weaknesses: Quarterback. Yale likes to use the I-bone formation but may not have anyone able to run it. Both lines look shaky following heavy losses.

Outlook: Cozza, the dean of Ivy League coaches, has a big job ahead. This team has talent, but it is young and needs time to jell.

Schedule: Brown, Sept. 18; Connecticut, Sept. 25; at Central Florida, Oct. 2; at Holy Cross, Oct. 9; Dartmouth, Oct. 16; at Columbia, Oct. 23; Pennsylvania, Oct. 30; at Cornell, Nov. 6; at Princeton, Nov. 13; Harvard, Nov. 20.

Nicknames: Elis, Bulldogs.

Site: New Haven, Conn.

Text by Frank Benson.

St. John's Russo isn't short of either talent or tenacity

By BILL DOHERTY

Free-lance writer

When the conversation turns to his height, and it invariably does, St. John's running back Anthony Russo understandably has a short fuse.

At 5-foot-8 and 195 pounds, Russo is the first to admit that he's vertically challenged. But he feels the true measure of a man is what he can accomplish, not his height.

"Because of my height, I was overlooked coming out of high school," said Russo, a native of Massapequa, N.Y. "It's ridiculous. Look around the NFL at the top running backs and the most productive backs are all around my size and playing weight—Barry Sanders, Emmitt Smith, Thurman Thomas. I'm not saying that I'm as good as those guys, but I can play, and it still upsets me that bigger schools didn't take a look at me."

Those schools' loss has been a huge gain for St. John's. Entering his senior year, Russo already is the school's all-time leading rusher with 4,276 yards, shattering the record set by former Jets running back Dennis Bligen from 1980-83. Russo also is a big reason why the Redmen are the pre-season favorite to win the first-ever Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference football title.

The MAAC will consist of Canisius, Iona, St. Peter's and Siena and two associate members for football only—Georgetown and St. John's. All six schools have traditionally played Division III football, but new NCAA regulations mandate that schools with Division I basketball programs also must have Division I-A or I-AA football to maintain their Division I status in hoops.

Russo views the jump from Division III to I-AA as a challenge, a way to prove that he can play against tougher competition. So Russo, ultra-competitive to begin with, trained even harder during the summer in the weight room and on his mountain bike, which he takes for five- to 10-mile workouts in hilly Massapequa.

"The bike riding is a big part of my success," Russo said. "It's a little unconventional, but it breaks up the monotony of the weight room. The bike rides, up and down hills in 90-degree heat in the middle of July, have helped me build up my leg strength."

Russo doesn't follow the crowd when it comes to strength training, either. Instead of the conventional carbo-loading recommended by fitness experts, Russo believes in taco-loading. Since high school, he has eaten at Taco Bell the night before every game.

"The people at the Taco Bell near school know what I'm going to order as I walk in the door," Russo said. "They don't even have to ask anymore. They just ring the numbers up on the cash register."

The taco-eating tailback isn't just ringing up eye-popping numbers on the field. A his-



Taco-eating tailback: Anthony Russo's unorthodox training habits have resulted in big numbers for St. John's.

tory and secondary education major, Russo sports a 3.5 grade-point average and has a legitimate shot at Division I-AA All-America honors both on the field and in the classroom this year.

"My studies are important to me," said Russo, who wants to be a social studies teacher. "I like to break down stereotypes—whether it be that short guys can't excel on the football field or that athletes don't care about academics."

Russo hits the books as hard as he hits blocking dummies. His friends know where to find him when he has time to spare—in the library. There, Russo has carved out what he calls his "lucky" spot, in a corner on the first floor near the reference materials.

"My first semester here, I used to study on the third floor and I was disappointed with grades," Russo said. "I had a 2.5. So I walked around the library, looking for a lucky spot to turn around my grades. And I found this spot. What can I say? I'm a creature of habit. Once I find something that works for me, I stick with it."

Redmen Coach Bob Ricca is the same way. He knows a good thing when he sees it. When Russo is running well, it's not unusual for him to get the ball 30 to 40 times a game. Last season, he had 46 carries against Duquesne (for 213 yards) and 34 each against Pace (256 yards) and Georgetown (a school-record 314 yards).

"He's a great talent, a player who might have a shot at playing pro ball," Ricca said. "Anthony and I have talked about it, and I haven't lied to him. (Playing pro ball) is a one-in-a-million shot. But when Anthony sets his mind on doing something, he hardly ever comes up short." ■

TSN

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. ST. JOHN'S
2. ST. PETER'S
3. IONA
4. GEORGETOWN
5. CANISIUS
6. SIENA

ALL-MAAC TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
WR	EUGENE McGOWAN, Iona	Sr.
WR	RAY MARSHALL, St. Peter's	Jr.
TE	JOHN DOOLEY, Georgetown	Sr.
T	GUY STANKIEWICZ, Iona	Sr.
T	CARLOS DIAS, St. Peter's	Soph.
C	FRED RECIO, St. Peter's	Soph.
G	KEVIN YOUNG, St. Peter's	Sr.
G	BEAU RIELY, Georgetown	Jr.
QB	SEAN SHARKEY, St. John's	Sr.
RB	ANTHONY RUSSO, St. John's	Sr.
RB	TURHAN JORDAN, Canisius	Soph.

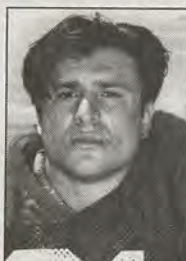
DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
DL	ROB BLENDINGER, Canisius	Sr.
DL	VIN SANTELIA, Iona	Jr.
DL	AL BRUNO, St. John's	Sr.
LB	MIKE HUSSEY, Siena	Sr.
LB	KEN VAUGHN, St. Peter's	Jr.
LB	TOM OAKES, Iona	Sr.
LB	BRENDAN BOLER, Georgetown	Sr.
DB	JIM TORHAN, Iona	Sr.
DB	JASON ELLIS, Siena	Sr.
DB	TOM SABOTKA, Siena	Jr.
DB	SCOTT MAHLE, St. Peter's	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Class
PK	JAMES COWPER, Iona	Sr.
P	JOE PISCATELLI, Georgetown	Jr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

Anthony Russo, RB, St. John's



DEFENSE:

Ken Vaughn, LB, St. Peter's

METRO ATLANTIC ATHLETIC TEAM CHARTS

DIVISION I-AA

METRO ATLANTIC ATHLETIC

DIVISION I-AA

CANISIUS

Coach: Barry Mynter (3-6-1, 1 year; 78-84-3 overall, 17 years).

1992 record: 3-6-1.

Key players: Rob Blending, DE; Brandon Crotty, LB; Steve D'Anna, QB; Kirk DeShales, RB; Jeff Dudek, FB; Mike Duffy, NG; Dave Fraterrigo, DB; C.J. Hurrell, LB; Turhan Jordan, TB; Larry Lawicki, DT; Roger Malcolm, OT; Chris Moyer, OG; Chris Mucica, TE; Frank Zabawa, DT; John Zalewski, DE.

Strengths: The Golden Griffins return nine starters on offense, including the makings of a strong running game in Jordan and Dudek. A pair of stalwarts, Lawicki and Blending, anchor a strong defensive line.

Weaknesses: First, the good news: Quarterback D'Anna led the Griffins to two straight wins at the end of last season. Now, the bad news: He completed just 35.5 percent of his passes all year. He'll have to be a lot more accurate than that in 1993 to prevent opponents from loading up at the line of scrimmage to smother the running game.

Outlook: This team needs more rebuilding than a "This Old House" reclamation project. Mynter must find replacements for six defensive starters, patch together an offensive line and hope D'Anna does a better job. It all adds up to a second-division finish.

Schedule: At Duquesne, Sept. 11; at Buffalo State, Sept. 18; Gannon (Pa.), Sept. 25; at Mercyhurst (Pa.), Oct. 2; Iona, Oct. 9; at St. John's, Oct. 16; at St. Peter's, Oct. 23; St. Francis (Pa.), Oct. 30; at Siena, Nov. 6; Georgetown, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Golden Griffins.

Site: Buffalo, N.Y.



Turhan Jordan: Canisius.

GEORGETOWN

Coach: Robert Benson (first year as coach).

1992 record: 4-6.

Key players: Paul Belkin, WR; Dorian Bell, WR; Brendan Boler, LB; Jimmy Cesare, WR; Steven Colello, C; John Dooley, TE; Chris Fazio, DB; Murray Happer, DL; Ryan Long, DL; Joseph Piscatella, K; David Powell, LB; Beau Riely, OL; Robert Sgarlata, RB; Paul Uppole, RB; Carli Walker, RB.

Strengths: The Hoyas should have a decent running game with their top three rushers and key offensive linemen Riely and Colello all returning. Boler (80 tackles last season) should be one of the MAAC's top defensive players.

Weaknesses: Five key offensive starters must be replaced, most notably Georgetown's all-time leading receiver (Chris Murphy). Defensively, three of last season's top five tacklers, including No. 1 man Jim Bolger, are gone.

Outlook: Because the Hoyas didn't hire Benson until May, they are the MAAC's mystery team. Six starters return on both offense and defense, but who knows how the players will respond to a new coach.

Schedule: At Iona, Sept. 25; Siena, Oct. 2; at St. Peter's, Oct. 9; Franklin and Marshall, Oct. 16; at Johns Hopkins, Oct. 22; Catholic (D.C.), Oct. 30; St. John's, Nov. 6; at Canisius, Nov. 13; Washington and Lee, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Hoyas.

Site: Washington, D.C.



Damon Biencik: Siena.

IONA

Coach: Harold Crocker (33-46-1, 8 years).

1992 record: 5-5.

Key players: Derrick Clark, C; James Cowper, K; Dan Foley, DB; Eugene McGowan, WR; James McMahon, RB; Thomas Moane, WR; Michael Morgan, LB; Tom Oakes, LB; Ray Perez, DE; Steve Pogodzinski, WR; Tom Proudian, QB; Vin Santella, DE; Silo, LB; Guy Stankiewicz, OT; Jim Torhan, DB.

Strengths: Despite the graduation of record-setting quarterback Bill Hyland, Crocker is confident the passing game will keep right on clicking. Hyland's successor, Proudian, has a strong group of receivers in McGowan, Silo and Moane. The linebackers, led by Oakes, and the defensive line, paced by Santella, also should be strong.

Weaknesses: The biggest concern is the lack of a running game to complement the passing attack. McMahon, with a paltry 320 yards, was Iona's leading rusher in 1992.

Outlook: The Gaels' questionable ground game and

defensive shortcomings give them a middle-of-the-pack look.

Schedule: Sacred Heart (Conn.), Sept. 11; Central Connecticut, Sept. 18; Georgetown, Sept. 25; at Wagner, Oct. 2; at Canisius, Oct. 9; at St. Peter's, Oct. 16; Pace (N.Y.), Oct. 23; at Siena, Oct. 30; Marist, Nov. 6; at St. John's, Nov. 12.

Nickname: Gaels.

Site: New Rochelle, N.Y.

ST. JOHN'S

Coach: Bob Ricca (92-59-1, 15 years).

1992 record: 5-5.

Key players: John Anitra, FB; Charles Broadway, RB;

Al Bruno, NT; Steve Campillay, OG; Chris Carew, LB; Anthony Iadevala, WR; Ray Lambright, DE; Tom MacPherson, WR; Dan Parker, TE; Joe Parker, K/P; Anthony Russo, TB; Sean Sharkey, QB; Carl Volpe, LB; Martin Wade, DB; Marc Winkler, DL.

Strengths: The Redmen have the best collection of skill-position players in the MAAC. Russo, already the school's all-time leading rusher, will have all of the St. John's rushing records before he's through. Thanks to rapidly improving quarterback Sharkey and top receivers Iadevala and MacPherson, the Redmen also will fly the friendly skies.

Weaknesses: The two biggest questions are the offensive line and the secondary. If Ricca can rebuild those areas, the Redmen will be tough to stop.

Outlook: This is the team to beat in the MAAC. The offense averaged 28.5 points and nearly 400 yards last season and should be just as explosive in 1993 if the line comes together.

Schedule: St. Peter's, Sept. 11; at Wagner, Sept. 18; at Siena, Sept. 25; Marist, Oct. 1; at Pace (N.Y.), Oct. 9; Canisius, Oct. 16; Sacred Heart (Conn.), Oct. 22; at Duquesne, Oct. 30; at Georgetown, Nov. 6; Iona, Nov. 12.

Nickname: Redmen.

Site: Jamaica, N.Y.

ST. PETER'S

Coach: Roy Miller (11-6, 2 years; 38-48 overall, 9 years).

1992 record: 7-2.

Key players: William Bryant, LB; Carlos Dias, OL; Anthony Guma, QB; Pat Jacques, RB; Ronnie James, WR; Scott Mahle, FS; Ray Marshall, WR; Fred Recio, C; Ed Rivera, LB; Dan Roman, DT; Donny Rosso, RB; Joe Segarra, OT; Ken Vaughn, LB; Latoro Yates, SS; Kevin Young, OL.

Strengths: The Peacocks had the No. 3 defense in Division III a year ago (186.8 yards per game allowed). With the entire linebacking corps returning—led by league MVP candidate Vaughn—it should be just as stingy this year. St. Peter's also has a huge, experienced offensive line.

Weaknesses: The Peacocks fattened up on a cupcake schedule in '92, so you have to wonder how they'll fare against a tougher schedule this year.

Outlook: If anyone can keep St. John's from winning the MAAC, it is St. Peter's. If Jacques can stay healthy all season and Guma improves his completion percentage while cutting down on his interceptions, the Peacocks have a good chance.

Schedule: At St. John's, Sept. 11; at Siena, Sept. 18; St. Francis, Sept. 25; at Monmouth, Oct. 2; Georgetown, Oct. 9; Iona, Oct. 16; Canisius, Oct. 23; at Assumption, Oct. 30; at Central Connecticut, Nov. 6; Jersey City State, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Peacocks.

Site: Jersey City, N.J.

SIENA

Coach: Jack DuBois (42-47, 10 years).

1992 record: 2-7.

Key players: Damon Biencik, QB; Tom Cartnick, LB; Phil Dwyer, SE; Jason Ellis, S; Mike Hussey, LB; Jeff Mulholland, QB; Tim Philbin, CB; Rich Rzeszotarski, TE; T.J. Sabotka, DB; Art Tambaro, LB.

Strengths: Ellis and Sabotka are all-league candidates in the secondary.

Weaknesses: Have a few hours? Siena's two biggest problems are that it has trouble scoring points and preventing the opposition from doing the same. The Saints were outscored, 235-92, last season and things don't look much better this year. Mulholland, a 5-foot-7 junior, completed just 28.6 percent of his passes in 1992.

Outlook: Dismal. The Saints played two MAAC teams last year—Iona and St. Peter's—and lost by a combined score of 71-22. Look for more of the same.

Schedule: At Assumption (Mass.), Sept. 11; St. Peter's, Sept. 18; at St. John's, Sept. 25; at Georgetown, Oct. 2; at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Oct. 9; at Bentley (Mass.), Oct. 16; at Stonehill (Mass.), Oct. 23; Iona, Oct. 30; Canisius, Nov. 6; Marist, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Saints.

Site: Loudonville, N.Y.

Text by Bill Doherty.

A marriage of convenience is football bliss for Howard QB

By DAVID LEE SIMMONS

Tallahassee Democrat

For Coach Steve Wilson, bringing Jay Walker into the Howard football program was a bit of gamble. For Walker, the step down from a Division I-A school to Division I-AA was more like a leap of faith.

But what began as a marriage of convenience became football bliss last season. The 6-foot-4, 220-pound Walker was exactly the kind of big, drop-back quarterback Wilson needed to run his pass-oriented offense. Last season, his first with the Bison after two years at Long Beach State, Walker passed for 2,347 yards and 18 touchdowns in leading Howard to a 7-4 record.

Not bad for a guy whose college career began with the death of his coach after his first season and the collapse of the entire program the next.

"I was in Palm Springs when I heard he had died," Walker said of George Allen, the longtime NFL coach who died in December 1990 after his first season at Long Beach State. "If I could love football just a tenth as much as he did, I'd be set for life."

When the 49ers dropped football the following year, Walker became a player in need of a team. His mother liked the academic tradition at Howard, one of the more visible historically black colleges in the country, but Walker wasn't so sure.

"The thing is, in California, you don't have any Division I-AA programs, so I wasn't used to the idea," said Walker, a native of Los Angeles. "They give scholarships, but you almost never see them on television. I thought about it, and that was a key concern. I'd narrowed my choices down to Louisville, Howard and Kansas State, and Louisville got on TV."

"But, eventually, I decided on what was best for me. I'm a political science major, so Washington, D.C., was perfect for me."

"I chose a program, not just a football team."

Wilson, on the other hand, wanted to make sure he was getting a quarterback, not just a big guy who could throw the ball. Since Walker rode the bench in his two years at Long Beach State, the Howard coach didn't exactly have a lot to go on.

"There's no guarantee on any athlete that he can perform on another level," Wilson said. "It was on our part a risk and a gamble not having a chance to see him play much. We went on a hunch and other people's opinions."

The decisive opinion may have been that of Willie Brown, the former Oakland Raiders great who replaced Allen at Long Beach State.

"I called him after the program folded and he mentioned a quarterback who hadn't played a lot," said Wilson, himself a defensive back with the Denver Broncos in the 1980s. "He didn't have a lot of film on him, but film we had showed that he was a good



Jay Walker: Quarterback has found football to be fun at Howard.

quarterback. He showed good feet, he had nice size.

"It was not a lot to take to the bank, but enough to give him a shot with. It was a good hunch."

Walker didn't know he had earned the starting job until midway through fall drills. Howard's stunning 7-0 loss to Division II Morehouse College in the season opener, however, left people wondering.

"We had a team meeting," Walker said, "and I told the team, 'Right now, everybody's thinking I'm a fluke and all that, and I want to let you know I'm not going to let us lose next week.'" He didn't, throwing for two touchdowns and running for another as the Bison whipped Alabama A&M, 28-7.

Walker's athletic roots run deep. His father, Jewell Walker, pitched in the old Negro leagues. His godfather is James Harris, a quarterback for the Buffalo Bills and the Los Angeles Rams in the 1970s. Walker himself was chosen by the California Angels in the 20th round of the 1989 free-agent draft and played two years of minor league baseball.

"I was a bit too young, being 17 years old at the time, and I was the youngest player in camp," said Walker, a pitcher. "I missed home, and I missed football."

It's doubtful that Walker will be missing football again anytime soon. ■

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. NORTH CAROLINA A&T
2. FLORIDA A&M
3. HOWARD
4. DELAWARE STATE
5. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
6. BETHUNE-COOKMAN
7. MORGAN STATE

ALL-MEAC TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
WR	TERRY MICKENS, Florida A&M	Sr.
WR	JESSE HUMPHREY, Morgan State	Sr.
TE	WILLIE FELTON, Bethune-Cookman	Sr.
T	TYRONE BROWN, North Carolina A&T	Sr.
T	GREG MIDDLETON, South Carolina State	Sr.
C	DAVID BLANCHARD, South Carolina State	Sr.
G	STANLEY BURRIS, Delaware State	Sr.
G	ROBERT HOLLEY, North Carolina A&T	Sr.
QB	JAY WALKER, Howard	Sr.
RB	TONY PHILLIPS, Morgan State	Sr.
RB	JAMES WHITE, North Carolina A&T	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
DL	MARCUS LAMPKIN, Florida A&M	Sr.
DL	ERVIN COLLIER, Florida A&M	Sr.
DL	MATTHEW STEEPLE, Morgan State	Sr.
LB	CRAIG JAMES, South Carolina State	Sr.
LB	TERRANCE CAREY, Bethune-Cookman	Sr.
LB	BRUCE DANIELS, Florida A&M	Sr.
LB	JOSE WHITE, Howard	Jr.
DB	LAJEREMY ADAMSON, Howard	Sr.
DB	BRIAN RANDALL, Delaware State	Sr.
DB	KEN RILEY, Florida A&M	Jr.
DB	KEINO TAYLOR, Florida A&M	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Class
PK	TIM CAMRON, Florida A&M	Jr.
P	CHUCK POPLOS, Delaware State	Jr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

Jay Walker, QB, Howard



DEFENSE:

Brian Randall, DB, Delaware State

MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC TEAM CHARTS

BETHUNE-COOKMAN

Coach: Sylvester Collins (4-7, 1 year).

1992 record: 4-7. MEAC: 2-4/6th.

Key players: Terrance Carey, LB; Devon Cole, TE; Kelvin Daniels, RB; Willie Felton, TE; John Jones, WR; Tyrone Laster, CB; Leotis McNeil, CB; Morris Nobles, WR; Paul Thurmond, K; David Watkins, DE.

Strengths: Considering how long the Wildcats have been struggling, Collins must be happy that nine starters return on defense. The kicking game also should be steady with the return of Thurmond. Daniels keys a steady running attack.

Weaknesses: Replacing departed quarterback J.D. Hall, who finished his career as the Wildcats' second all-time leading passer, will be difficult. The offensive line needs reinforcing after losing two starters.

Outlook: If Collins was moaning about a lack of talent entering his first year, imagine how hard it will be to succeed in '93 without Hall. If a quarterback emerges and the offensive line comes together quickly, the Wildcats may post a winning record.

Schedule: Knoxville, Tenn. (at Jacksonville, Fla.), Sept. 4; Morgan State, Sept. 11; Johnson C. Smith (N.C.), Sept. 18; at Samford, Sept. 25; at Delaware State, Oct. 2; Howard, Oct. 9; South Carolina State, Oct. 16; Central Florida, Oct. 23; North Carolina A&T, Oct. 30; at Norfolk (Va.) State, Nov. 13; Florida A&M (at Tampa, Fla.), Nov. 27.

Nickname: Wildcats.

Site: Daytona Beach, Fla.



Erik Jones: Delaware State.

at North Carolina A&T, Oct. 9; Delaware State, Oct. 16; Albany (Ga.) State, Oct. 23; Morgan State (at Orlando, Fla.), Oct. 30; Southern, Nov. 6; at Grambling State, Nov. 13; Bethune-Cookman (at Tampa, Fla.), Nov. 27.

Nickname: Rattlers.

Site: Tallahassee, Fla.

HOWARD

Coach: Steve Wilson (23-21, 4 years).

1992 record: 7-4. MEAC: 3-3/4th.

Key players: Lajeremy Adamson, DB; David Carrington, LB; Neal Downing, FS; Gary Harrell, WR; Aaron Kinchen, NT; Dondre Owens, DB; Jay Walker, QB; Jose White, LB; Dwayne Williams, WR; Robert Winters, LB.

Strengths: After passing for 2,347 yards last year, Walker returns for his second season as the starting quarterback. The exciting Harrell will be Walker's favorite target. But the Bison's "Buffalo Soldier" defense, which ranked ninth among all Division I-AA schools in scoring defense last year, could grab the headlines.

Weaknesses: The only glaring one is kicking. But in the balanced MEAC, good kicking usually means the difference between first and fourth place. The left side of the offensive line is brand new, meaning Walker will have to watch his back. Running back also is a concern.

Outlook: Wilson can't seem to get the Bison into championship form. But this could be Howard's year, if it establishes a running game.

Schedule: Virginia Union, Sept. 4; Winston-Salem (N.C.) State, Sept. 18; at Alcorn State, Sept. 25; Florida A&M, Oct. 2; at Bethune-Cookman, Oct. 9; at Towson State, Oct. 16; at North Carolina A&T, Oct. 23; Morehouse (Ga.), Oct. 30; South Carolina State, Nov. 6; at Morgan State, Nov. 13; at Delaware State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Bison.

Site: Washington, D.C.

MORGAN STATE

Coach: Ricky Diggs (3-19, 2 years).

1992 record: 2-9. MEAC: 0-6/7th.

Key players: Delwyn Garnett, LB; Pierre Hubbard, DT; Jesse Humphrey, WR; Earnest Johnson, OG; Eric Johnson, CB; Tony Phillips, RB; Orlando Presnell, QB; Franco Rocca, C; Matthew Steple, DT.

Strengths: With eight offensive starters back, Morgan State again will be fun to watch. Behind quarterback Presnell, the Bears' three-wideout attack makes for the league's most exciting aerial show. Phillips led the MEAC in all-purpose yardage last year.

Weaknesses: The defense is as bad as the offense is good. Also, Diggs has been fighting a sexual-

harassment lawsuit filed by the athletic department's academic adviser. The situation led to a threatened boycott by players that ended in a season-ending forfeit to Bethune-Cookman last year. Additionally, five of six assistants left.

Outlook: Obviously, turmoil is keeping the Bears from shaking their doormat image around the league. The offense has come a long way, but the defense lags behind. And the lawsuit still hangs over the entire program. It looks to be another long year in Baltimore.

Schedule: Charleston Southern, Sept. 4; at Bethune-Cookman, Sept. 11; at Youngstown State, Sept. 18; at Johnson C. Smith (N.C.), Sept. 25; South Carolina State, Oct. 9; North Carolina A&T, Oct. 16; at Delaware State, Oct. 23; at Florida A&M (Orlando), Oct. 30; at Knoxville (Tenn.), Nov. 5; Howard, Nov. 12; Towson State, Nov. 19.

Nickname: Bears.

Site: Baltimore.

NORTH CAROLINA A&T

Coach: Bill Hayes (34-23, 5 years).

1992 record: 9-3 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs). MEAC: 5-1/1st.

Key players: Rudy Artis, WR; Jimmy Barger, NG; Maceo Bolin, QB; Tyrone Brown, OT; Leevary Covington, LB; John Dixon, SS; Robert Holley, OG; Toran James, DT; Richard Lide, C; David Russell, QB; Barry Turner, HB; James White, FB.

Strengths: The offensive line is a veteran unit that paved the way for one of the league's best running attacks last season. The Aggies have depth at every offensive skill position, particularly at running back. Key backups should keep the secondary tough.

Weaknesses: Quarterback remains a question mark, even if Hayes was successful with his musical-chairs approach last season. The defensive line may struggle due to the loss of some key starters, but that's what they said last year when Knox Thompson left.

Outlook: The Aggies have a strong shot at repeating as champion, but getting by without a set quarterback may be even tougher this season now that opposing defenses know what to expect.

Schedule: Appalachian State, Sept. 4; at Winston-Salem (N.C.) State, Sept. 11; at Western Carolina, Sept. 25; at Liberty, Oct. 2; Florida A&M, Oct. 9; at Morgan State, Oct. 16; Howard, Oct. 23; at Bethune-Cookman, Oct. 30; Delaware State, Nov. 6; Johnson C. Smith (N.C.), Nov. 13; at South Carolina State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Aggies.

Site: Greensboro, N.C.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

Coach: Willie Jeffries (73-33-4, 10 years; 124-88-6 overall, 20 years).

1992 record: 7-4. MEAC: 4-2/T2nd.

Key players: David Blanchard, C; Carnell Carter, OL; Anthony Cook, DL; James Hester, DB; Craig James, LB; Marvin Marshall, QB; Greg Middleton, OT; Quincy Miller, WR; Macey Stephens, DB; Matt Young, K.

Strengths: A veteran backfield running behind an equally experienced offensive line will make the Bulldogs potent this season. Marshall should continue to improve after winning the quarterback job last season.

Weaknesses: South Carolina State simply hasn't played the solid defense that typified Jeffries' early teams. The secondary lost three starters as well as two key backups. There also is a noticeable lack of depth at linebacker and along the defensive line.

Outlook: As the defense has declined in recent years, so have the Bulldogs' chances of winning the MEAC title. South Carolina State finished tied for second last year, thanks mainly to Florida A&M's fade down the stretch. Don't expect another second-place finish in '93.

Schedule: At Newberry (S.C.), Sept. 4; Florida A&M (at Columbia, S.C.), Sept. 11; Charleston Southern, Sept. 18; Southern (at Atlanta), Sept. 25; Jackson State (at Indianapolis), Oct. 2; at Morgan State, Oct. 9; at Bethune-Cookman, Oct. 16; North Carolina Central; Delaware State, Oct. 30; at Howard, Nov. 6; North Carolina A&T, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Bulldogs.

Site: Orangeburg, S.C.

Text by David Lee Simmons.

DELAWARE STATE

Coach: William Collick (59-26, 8 years).

1992 record: 6-5. MEAC: 3-3/4th.

Key players: Tariq Abul-Quasm, LB; Phil Anderson, RB; Lloyd Badson, LB; Stanley Burris, OG; Jon Jensen, K; Erik Jones, QB; Chuck Poplos, P; Brian Randall, DB; Mark Still, LB; Thane Watkins, C; Bert Watson, FB.

Strengths: Aided by a veteran line, Jones should continue to improve in his third year as the starting quarterback. Buoyed by their wing-T attack, the Hornets annually feature one of the league's best running games. The kickers are experienced.

Weaknesses: The Hornets' defense has struggled in recent years, and the loss of end LeRoy Thompson compounds problems. A lack of depth at running back could be a concern early in the year, but someone usually emerges.

Outlook: Delaware State has become painfully predictable, getting off to an exciting start because of its offense, then collapsing down the stretch as teams expose the Hornets' defense. However, Delaware State is always in the championship hunt.

Schedule: Fayetteville (N.C.) State (at Wilmington, Del.), Sept. 4; Cheyney (Pa.), Sept. 11; Towson State, Sept. 18; Bethune-Cookman, Oct. 2; at Youngstown State, Oct. 9; at Florida A&M, Oct. 16; Morgan State, Oct. 23; at South Carolina State, Oct. 30; at North Carolina A&T, Nov. 6; Liberty, Nov. 13; Howard, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Hornets.

Site: Dover, Del.

FLORIDA A&M

Coach: Ken Riley (43-34-2, 7 years).

1992 record: 7-5. MEAC: 4-2/T2nd.

Key players: Jamie Brown, OT; Tim Camron, K; Ervin Collier, DE; Bruce Daniels, LB; Ivory Dillard, OG; David Farquhar, OT; Earl Holmes, LB; Marcus Lampkin, NT; Terry Mickens, WR; Earl Reeves, HB; Ken Riley, CB; Keino Taylor, CB; George Terrell, TE.

Strengths: Florida A&M is three deep at quarterback. Seven starters return on defense, while the kicking game (particularly the punting) should improve.

Weaknesses: Riley lost both of his coordinators in the off-season, though he has shown he can reload his staff. Serious injuries to either Mickens, Daniels or Reeves would create problems. Depth at cornerback is suspect.

Outlook: Last year's late-season swoon (the Rattlers lost four of their last six games) ruined Riley's bid for his first-ever eight-win season. Another seven-win season looms on the horizon in '93.

Schedule: Tennessee State (at Jacksonville, Fla.), Sept. 4; South Carolina State (at Columbia, S.C.), Sept. 11; Jackson State, Sept. 18; at Howard, Oct. 2;

'Earthquake' can't be faulted in SE Missouri's 2-9 season

By MONTE HALE

Daily News Journal

It was a long wait for Southeast Missouri State tailback Kelvin Anderson. Three years, in fact, before he was able to play football after graduating from high school in New Madrid, Mo.

But after being sidelined by Proposition 48 in 1990 and then an NCAA rules quirk in 1991, the "Earthquake" burst upon the Ohio Valley Conference last year with an impact season. He rumbled for 1,371 yards, scored 14 touchdowns and averaged 6.7 yards per carry in Southeast Missouri's dreary 2-9 season. While he received some All-America mention, Anderson was shunned by Ohio Valley coaches when their all-conference team was announced.

Such an oversight isn't likely to occur again.

Anderson's success story is unique in that he almost gave up football altogether. After being told he was ineligible for the 1991 season because of a classroom problem, Anderson was ready to quit.

"You don't need to quit, stick with it," insisted his grandmother, Esteen Brown, who had reared him after his mother was murdered when he was 2 years old. Yes, it would have been easy for Anderson to pack up his belongings and return to New Madrid. After all, Anderson didn't find out he was ineligible for the second year in a row until moments before Southeast Missouri's 1991 season opener.

"That had to be one of the most disappointing days in my life," Anderson said. "All of the people from New Madrid were there (in Cape Girardeau, Mo., for the Indians' opener against Southern Illinois), and I had a whole lot of explaining to do as to why I wasn't there. I found out before the game and went back to the dorm, but after watching some of the game on TV, I came back and went on the sidelines."

Anderson immediately thought of returning home, but fortunately for the Indians and unfortunately for their opponents, he remained in school. He has two more years of eligibility.

"Don't think I'm not happy about it," Indians Coach John Mumford said. "I think it's a testament to Kelvin's character and his desire to play football that he stayed. A lot of kids in the same situation wouldn't have even considered it, but that shows what type of person he is."

Anderson had flunked an English class but made a passing grade when he retook the course. After university officials checked with the NCAA on three occasions, he was ruled eligible. However, the night before the first game of the '91 season, the NCAA came back saying Anderson would have to sit out another season because of the flunked course.

"We tried all night to work something out," Mumford said. "As a coach, I've had



The Earthquake: Southeast Missouri tailback Kelvin Anderson made plenty of noise when he finally became eligible to play last season.

to tell kids about deaths in their families, but telling Kelvin the day of our first game that he was ineligible has to be the toughest thing I've had to do."

Anderson, a 5-foot-10, 196-pounder, acknowledges that he was waiting for something bad to happen when drills began in August 1992. "I didn't feel safe until I got that first carry in the first game," he said. "Then I knew everything would be all right."

Anderson quickly lived up to his billing out of New Madrid County Central High School—where he rushed for more than 2,000 yards as a senior—when he ripped off a 96-yard run against Murray State in the '92 opener. "Right away, I knew I was going to have a great season," he said.

Anderson's numbers last season were nothing short of amazing, considering that the Indians operated out of the run-and-shoot offense. He expects to have an even better season in 1993 as the Indians change to a two-back set with a tight end.

"I will really feel comfortable because it's the same offense we ran in high school," he said. "I think it should help me a lot."

That's the last thing Indians opponents wanted to hear about Earthquake Anderson. ■

TSN

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE
2. EASTERN KENTUCKY
3. TENNESSEE TECH
4. TENNESSEE STATE
5. MOREHEAD STATE
6. SOUTHEAST MISSOURI ST.
7. AUSTIN PEAY STATE
8. UT-MARTIN
9. MURRAY STATE

ALL-OHIO VALLEY TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
WR	AARON LAYTON, Southeast Missouri State	Sr.
WR	LAWRENCE SEGREE, Tennessee State	Soph.
TE	CHRIS WHITEFIELD, Eastern Kentucky	Soph.
T	DERRICK SHEPHERD, Tennessee Tech	Jr.
T	BURT TALLEY, Middle Tennessee State	Soph.
C	J.R. COOK, Morehead State	Jr.
G	JAMES HAND, Eastern Kentucky	Soph.
G	DAVID WATSON, Middle Tennessee State	Sr.
QB	KELLY HOLCOMB, Middle Tennessee State	Jr.
RB	KELVIN ANDERSON, Southeast Missouri St.	Jr.
RB	BRIGHT LYONS, Middle Tennessee State	Soph.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
DL	SHANE QUEEN, Tennessee Tech	Sr.
DL	CHAD BRATZKE, Eastern Kentucky	Sr.
DL	DOUG BERG, Southeast Missouri State	Sr.
LB	JABBAR TROUTMAN, Middle Tennessee St.	Jr.
LB	MAURICE DRAINE, Tennessee Tech	Sr.
LB	ANTHONY HICKS, Middle Tennessee State	Soph.
LB	JAIME PHILLIPS, Morehead State	Jr.
DB	ERIC MCBROOM, Middle Tennessee State	Jr.
DB	JOE SMITH, Eastern Kentucky	Soph.
DB	BRENT ALEXANDER, Tennessee State	Sr.
DB	RANDY FULLER, Tennessee State	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Class
PK	GARTH PETRILLI, Middle Tennessee State	Jr.
P	TIM McNAMEE, Eastern Kentucky	Jr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE

Kelly Holcomb, QB, Middle Tenn. St.



DEFENSE

Chad Bratzke, DL, Eastern Kentucky

OHIO VALLEY TEAM CHARTS

DIVISION I-AA

OHIO VALLEY

DIVISION I-AA

AUSTIN PEAY STATE

Coach: Roy Gregory (8-14, 2 years).

1992 record: 3-8. OVC: 2-6/T6th.

Key players: James Garrett, DT; Jeff Gooch, LB; Samy Hillman, RB; Arthur King, CB; James Loydd, CB; Kirk Pointer, CB; Jody Smith, FB; Mark Snead, DE; David Stoksbury, QB; Michael Swift, FS; Fred Waters, LB; Daniel Williams, QB; Calton Yeldon, LB.

Strengths: The Governors always seem to be young and rebuilding, but with 18 starters back, Gregory has good reason to be optimistic. Yeldon, Pointer and King could challenge for postseason honors. Smith is a bruising runner in the wishbone offense.

Weaknesses: This was the OVC's worst passing team in '92, and the quarterbacking remains questionable.

Outlook: If Austin Peay can assemble even a moderate passing game to go along with its running game, it has a chance to win a few games. However, even a successful wishbone won't allow the Governors to crack the OVC's first division.

Schedule: At Cincinnati, Sept. 4; Knoxville (Tenn.), Sept. 11; Western Kentucky, Sept. 18; at Eastern Kentucky, Sept. 25; Tennessee Tech, Oct. 2; at Murray State, Oct. 9; Tennessee State, Oct. 16; at Morehead State, Oct. 23; Southeast Missouri State, Oct. 30; at Middle Tennessee State, Nov. 6; UT-Martin, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Governors.
Site: Clarksville, Tenn.

EASTERN KENTUCKY

Coach: Roy Kidd (239-84-8, 29 years).

1992 record: 9-3 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs). OVC: 7-1/2nd.

Key players: Chad Bratzke, DE; Leon Brown, FL; James Hand, OG; Ron Jones, QB; Mike McCollum, SE; Tim McNamee, P; Andrew Nettles, LB; Mike Penman, TB; Joe Smith, S; Carlo Stallings, FB; Carlos Timmons, LB; Daryl Wagner, DT; Chris Whitefield, TE.

Strengths: With 34 lettermen back, the Colonels should equal or improve on last season's 9-3 record. Opponents will find running the ball difficult against All-America Bratzke and an experienced line.

Weaknesses: The Colonels have had great tailbacks in the past, but they may not this year. Kidd can't replace Markus Thomas, the all-time rushing leader in Division I-AA, but he hopes Penman is adequate.

Outlook: With a favorable home schedule, the Colonels could win the OVC title. Penman and new quarterback Jones, however, must come through.

Schedule: Western Kentucky, Sept. 2; at Northeast Louisiana, Sept. 11; Austin Peay State, Sept. 25; Youngstown State, Oct. 2; at Tennessee State, Oct. 9; at Murray State, Oct. 16; Tennessee Tech, Oct. 23; UT-Martin, Oct. 30; at Southeast Missouri State, Nov. 6; Middle Tennessee State, Nov. 13; at Morehead State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Colonels.
Site: Richmond, Ky.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE

Coach: Boots Donnelly (105-58, 14 years; 119-65 overall, 16 years).

1992 record: 10-3 (including 1-1 in I-AA playoffs). OVC: 8-0/1st.

Key players: Kippy Bayless, TB; Anthony Hicks, LB; Kelly Holcomb, QB; Mike Jordan, DT; Danny Lawrence, DE; Brigham Lyons, TB; Eric McBroom, FS; James McKenzie, DG; Dennis Mims, SE; Garth Petrilli, PK; Preston Sensabaugh, DG; Burt Talley, OT/C; Jabbar Troutman, LB; David Watson, OG.

Strengths: The Blue Raiders prove year after year that speed kills. Lyons (4.38 in the 40) and Bayless (4.5) form perhaps the best running-back duo in the league. Holcomb is an All-OVC quarterback.

Weaknesses: The offensive line could be a problem following the loss of both tackles, including two-time All-America Steve McAdoo. A replacement also must be found for star defensive end Mike Caldwell.

Outlook: If the offensive line comes together and the secondary remains injury-free, the Blue Raiders will be tough to unseat as league champions.

Schedule: At Hawaii, Sept. 4; Campbellsville (Ky.), Sept. 18; Murray State, Sept. 25; at Tennessee State, Oct. 3; at UT-Martin, Oct. 9; at Morehead State, Oct. 16; Southeast Missouri State, Oct. 23; at Tulsa, Oct. 30; Austin Peay State, Nov. 6; at Eastern Kentucky, Nov. 13; at Tennessee Tech, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Blue Raiders.
Site: Murfreesboro, Tenn.

MOREHEAD STATE

Coach: Cole Proctor (12-21, 3 years).

1992 record: 3-8. OVC: 3-5/5th.

Key players: Rontae Bass, RB; Barry Clark, DB; J.R. Cook, C; Stuart Cook, OL; Corey Curry, RB; Hector Diaz, DB; Phil Dinn, RB; Mike Duvall, LB; Jeremy Holbrook, QB; Don Mathews, LB; Jaime Phillips, LB; Mark Rice, DL; Wes Salyer, TE; Mike Snell, OL.

Strengths: Although the offensive line needs some retooling, Stuart Cook and Snell are solid players. Holbrook returns after an injury-filled season and could be one of the league's top quarterbacks.

Weaknesses: To keep pace in the OVC, a team must have excellent speed, and the Eagles don't. A host of newcomers will be auditioned at wide receiver.

Outlook: The Eagles have too many questions to win, but they have enough weapons to be a spoiler.

Schedule: At Marshall, Sept. 4; at Alabama-Birmingham, Sept. 11; West Virginia Tech, Sept. 18; at Tennessee Tech, Sept. 25; at Southeast Missouri State, Oct. 2; Middle Tennessee State, Oct. 16; Austin Peay State, Oct. 23; at Tennessee State, Oct. 30; at Murray State, Nov. 6; UT-Martin, Nov. 13; Eastern Kentucky, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Eagles.
Site: Morehead, Ky.

MURRAY STATE

Coach: Houston Nutt (first year as head coach).

1992 record: 2-9. OVC: 1-7/9th.

Key players: Timmy Bland, TB; Bill Christmas, DT; Sean Coleman, OG; Dave Cox, FB; Fred Davis, LB; Martin Diehl, LB; Chad Gann, LB; Mike Gossett, C; Anthony Hutch, DE; Marcus Kimbrell, OT; Joe Lepsis, DE; Wayne McGowan, TB; Butch Mosby, QB.

Strengths: The Racers return eight starters on offense, led by the backfield of Bland, McGowan and Cox. Davis, Diehl and Hutch are top defenders.

Weaknesses: Does any league in America have as few quality quarterbacks as this one? The job at Murray State appears to belong to Mosby, last year's backup. Depth again is a problem.

Outlook: The arrival of Nutt, an assistant at Arkansas the last three years, should create some enthusiasm, but the Racers are too weak in too many areas to compete with the OVC's top teams.

Schedule: Eastern Illinois, Sept. 4; at Marshall, Sept. 11; Southeast Missouri State, Sept. 18; at Middle Tennessee State, Sept. 25; at UT-Martin, Oct. 2; Austin Peay State, Oct. 9; Eastern Kentucky, Oct. 16; at Tennessee Tech, Oct. 30; Morehead State, Nov. 6; at Tennessee State, Nov. 13; at Western Kentucky, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Racers.
Site: Murray, Ky.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE

Coach: John Mumford (12-20, 3 years).

1992 record: 2-9. OVC: 2-6/T6th.

Key players: Kelvin Anderson, RB; Donzell Barnes, LB; Doug Berg, DT; Antoine Esters, RB; John Haggerty, DT; John Howze, WR; Cliff Latimore, LB; Aaron Layton, WR; Dwayne Nelson, DB; Jackie Purifoy, OL; Maurice Sanders, FS; Dave Stukenberg, OL.

Strengths: Anderson, a second-team All-America last year, may be the best-kept secret in college football. He will be joined by Esters in a new two-back set. Layton may be the OVC's best receiver.

Weaknesses: This team lacks a proven quarterback; two holdovers and two junior college transfers will vie for the job. Mumford, who didn't need a tight end in the old offense, needs one now.

Outlook: Despite going 2-9 in their first Division I-AA season, the Indians will finish in the middle of the OVC pack—at least—if their new offense works.

Schedule: At Southwest Missouri State, Sept. 4; Sam Houston State, Sept. 11; at Murray State, Sept. 18; at UT-Martin, Sept. 25; Morehead State, Oct. 2; Tennessee Tech, Oct. 9; at Middle Tennessee, Oct. 23; at Austin Peay, Oct. 30; Eastern Kentucky, Nov. 6; Kentucky State, Nov. 13; Tennessee State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Indians.
Site: Cape Girardeau, Mo.

UT-MARTIN

Coach: Don McLeary (33-46, 7 years; 43-54 overall, 9 years).

1992 record: 3-8. OVC: 2-6/T6th.

Key players: James Brown, WR; Randy Brown, RB; Kevin Gellian, RB; Dewayne Harper, DB; Trevor Hurst, C; Charles Malone, WR; J.B. Norment, OT; William Parson, RB; Alex Ripley, FB; Rob Senatore, DE; Brian Spano, LB; Tab Vowell, SS; Tim Wright, LB.

Strengths: A veteran offensive line should help the running game, a weak spot in recent years as the Pacers have opted to use a more pass-oriented offense. Parson could be on the verge of a big season.

Weaknesses: Team chemistry has to be questionable after the team nearly walked out during the off-season following the dismissal of an assistant coach. Like many of their OVC brethren, the Pacers are weak at quarterback.

Outlook: If the Pacers find a quarterback, their physical style could cause problems for some opponents. Still, this isn't a first-division team.

Schedule: UT-Chattanooga, Sept. 4; West Georgia, Sept. 11; Southeast Missouri State, Sept. 25; Murray State, Oct. 2; Middle Tennessee State, Oct. 9; at Tennessee Tech, Oct. 16; Tennessee State, Oct. 23; at Eastern Kentucky, Oct. 30; at Samford, Nov. 6; at Morehead State, Nov. 13; at Austin Peay, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Pacers.
Site: Martin, Tenn.

TENNESSEE STATE

Coach: Bill Davis (first year at Tennessee State; 102-49-1 overall, 14 years).

1992 record: 5-6. OVC: 5-3/4th.

Key players: Brent Alexander, FS; Keith Collins, DL; George Copeland, LB; Cedric Davis, CB; Darron Davis, RB; Randy Fuller, CB; Jerome Gardner, DL; Chad Germany, QB; Robert Hillman, DL; Thomas Jackson, LB; Chad McCollam, FB; Royce McGowan, OG; Marshun Middleton, C; Dan Pride, OT; Lawrence Segree, WR; William Tucker, DL; Daryl Williams, QB.

Strengths: Despite giving up a school-record 4,013 yards last year, the defense should be much improved under first-year Coach Davis. The secondary is excellent. The running game, once a glaring weakness, is solid with Darron Davis.

Weaknesses: The loss of quarterback James Wade and All-America punter Colin Godfrey has left huge holes on offense and on special teams, respectively.

Outlook: The Tigers have begun their last six seasons with a loss to Middle Tennessee State. That won't happen this year, if only because the teams meet later in the season. If they get the quarterback situation settled, the Tigers will be a serious contender.

Schedule: Florida A&M (site to be announced), Sept. 4; Jackson State (site to be announced), Sept. 11; Grambling State (at Memphis, Tenn.), Sept. 18; Middle Tennessee, Oct. 3; Eastern Kentucky, Oct. 9; at Austin Peay, Oct. 16; at UT-Martin, Oct. 23; Morehead State, Oct. 30; Tennessee Tech, Nov. 6; Murray State, Nov. 13; at Southeast Missouri, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Tigers.
Site: Nashville, Tenn.

TENNESSEE TECH

Coach: Jim Ragland (26-49, 7 years).

1992 record: 7-4. OVC: 6-2/3rd.

Key players: Randy Beaman, QB; Gerald Bentley, WR; Steven Bowen, TE; Maurice Draine, LB; Daniel Gipson, PK; Jason Hiett, DT; Kevin Jackson, DB; Troy Petersen, LB; Shane Queen, DE; Willie Queen, RB; Tracy Russell, C; Derrick Shepherd, OT.

Strengths: The Golden Eagles have 17 starters back, including seven on defense, which once again should be their strong suit. Shane Queen and Draine are two of the best in the league at their positions.

Weaknesses: The loss of cornerbacks Mike Stewart and George Thompson leaves two big holes. Fullback is a question mark as well.

Outlook: Confidence shouldn't be a problem despite the Golden Eagles' recent tendency of blowing apparent victories. Whether Tech is ready to challenge for the OVC title, however, is another matter.

Schedule: Lock Haven (Pa.), Sept. 11; at Samford, Sept. 18; Morehead State, Sept. 25; at Austin Peay State, Oct. 2; at Southeast Missouri State, Oct. 9; UT-Martin, Oct. 16; at Eastern Kentucky, Oct. 23; Murray State, Oct. 30; at Tennessee State, Nov. 6; Middle Tennessee State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Golden Eagles.
Site: Cookeville, Tenn.

Text by Monte Hale.

Crusaders get money's worth from cost-conscious defender

By BILL DOYLE

Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Holy Cross' Rob Milanette is willing to pay the price.

The senior linebacker will do whatever it takes to get the job done on the football field—as he demonstrated last fall by tying for second place in tackles in the Patriot League. He also pays the price—literally—to attend a school with the strong academic reputation of Holy Cross.

In fact, Milanette gave up an athletic scholarship at Massachusetts after his freshman year to pay his own way into Holy Cross.

"I love the smaller size of this school," said Milanette, alluding to Holy Cross' enrollment of 2,600 students, compared with UMass' student body of approximately 20,000, "and I wanted to make a step up to a more well-known academic school. It had nothing to do with football. I was happy with the football team there."

Milanette, a 6-foot-1, 220-pounder from Nashua, N.H., wanted to attend Holy Cross after earning all-state honors as a tailback and defensive end in high school but didn't even bother to visit the Worcester, Mass., campus. That was the first year Holy Cross stopped offering athletic scholarships, as per custom in the Patriot League. UMass and other Yankee Conference schools approached Milanette, and he accepted the Minutemen's offer.

A year later, he changed his mind. His father encouraged him to do what he wanted—even if the decision would affect their bank accounts. The Milanettes paid the entire bill of more than \$20,000 the first year at Holy Cross, then the elder Milanette lost his job as a pilot when Eastern Airlines went out of business.

With Terry Milanette out of work, financial aid picked up about \$4,000 of his son's college expenses. Somehow, the rest got paid.

"I have loans out all over the place," Milanette acknowledged.

Milanette's father has since landed a job teaching aviation at a small college in Nashua. Meanwhile, Rob has worked construction jobs during Christmas and spring breaks so he could stay in school. He's due to graduate this fall with a degree in political science.

"It's been a big sacrifice for my dad and for me," Milanette said. "But I'm happy here. I enjoy life here. So I'd say, 'Yes, it's worth it.'"

Milanette helped Holy Cross finish third in Division I-AA total defense in 1992, with the Crusaders allowing only 275.1 yards per game. Plus, the Crusaders wound up eighth in national scoring defense, surrendering an average of just 15.9 points. In the process, Milanette earned All-Patriot honors despite having to learn his third defense in four years under new Coach Peter Vaas.



Financial sacrifice: Rob Milanette was willing to pay the price to attend Holy Cross.

Milanette opened last season with a 20-tackle performance and a fumble recovery at Army. Believe it or not, Vaas thinks he played even better as the season progressed.

"I play the game with a lot of anger," said Milanette, who is particularly tough against the run. "That's the way I've always played. I see a game like being in a fight. I get out there and get after people."

Milanette will be one of only two returning defensive starters for Holy Cross, which slipped to a 6-5 record last year after going 60-5-1 over the previous six seasons.

Holy Cross did win six of its final eight games last fall and lost only one Patriot League contest—to conference champion Lafayette. Still, Milanette wasn't pleased.

"I don't think one bad season should change anything," Milanette said. "We're looking forward to being the team right at the top again."

"... I wasn't happy with my year or the team's year. I didn't think I ever reached my expectations."

Milanette hopes to reach those expectations in 1993. Considering his willingness to pay the price for success, no one will be betting against him. ■

TSN

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. HOLY CROSS
2. LEHIGH
3. LAFAYETTE
4. COLGATE
5. BUCKNELL
6. FORDHAM

ALL-PATRIOT TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
WR	DAVE CECCHINI, Lehigh	Sr.
WR	CHRIS SUMMERS, Holy Cross	Sr.
TE	CRAIG ROUBINEK, Lafayette	Sr.
T	TODD KEHLEY, Colgate	Sr.
T	ROB BIRK, Fordham	Sr.
C	ED FRATTARELLI, Bucknell	Jr.
G	DOUG SCOTT, Lehigh	Sr.
G	MIKE FLANAGAN, Holy Cross	Sr.
QB	SCOTT SEMPTIMPELTER, Lehigh	Sr.
RB	ERIK MARSH, Lafayette	Jr.
RB	BILL SPARACIO, Colgate	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
OL	AARON DOUGHERTY, Fordham	Sr.
DL	BRETT ALMASSY, Lehigh	Sr.
DL	PETE OHNEGIAN, Lafayette	Sr.
LB	ROB MILANETTE, Holy Cross	Sr.
LB	KEVIN JEFFERSON, Lehigh	Sr.
LB	RUSS STROHECKER, Bucknell	Jr.
LB	DAN ZAPPA, Bucknell	Sr.
DB	TODD ARAUJO, Holy Cross	Sr.
DB	MARK REARDON, Lafayette	Sr.
DB	TONY BARRETT, Colgate	Sr.
DB	MIKE WILT, Fordham	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Class
PK	JASON McLAUGHLIN, Lafayette	Jr.
P	JEFF MEADER, Holy Cross	Sr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

Erik Marsh,
TB, Lafayette



DEFENSE:

Rob Milanette,
LB, Holy Cross

PATRIOT LEAGUE TEAM CHARTS

BUCKNELL

Coach: Lou Maranzana (17-25, 4 years).

1992 record: 4-7. Patriot: 1-4/T5th.

Key players: Brad Bernardini, WR/KR; Cecil Boone, DT; Ed Frattarelli, C/OT; Damon Garner, WR; Duane Hart, CB; Jim Jaroschak, SS; Todd Jessup, FS; Erik Klingner, WR/K; Travis Kopp, QB/P; Vince Mays, OG; Mark Miller, CB; Russ Strohecker, LB; Craig Svendsen, TB; Don Watson, OT; Dan Zappa, LB.

Strengths: Strohecker and Zappa could be the best linebacker combination in the league. Bernardini is the league's reigning indoor track sprint champion.

Weaknesses: The Bison have trouble kicking the ball and holding onto it. Bucknell missed a quarter of its extra-point attempts and four of five field-goal tries and averaged three turnovers per game last year. The defensive line must be rebuilt.

Outlook: Although Kopp has recovered from the broken ankle he suffered at midseason last year, he'll be working with an entirely new corps of running backs. The Bison likely will finish closer to the bottom of the league than the top.

Schedule: Bloomsburg (Pa.), Sept. 4; at Lafayette, Sept. 11; Pennsylvania, Sept. 25; Dartmouth, Oct. 2; at Hofstra, Oct. 9; at Brown, Oct. 16; Holy Cross, Oct. 23; at Fordham, Oct. 30; Lehigh, Nov. 6; at Towson State, Nov. 13; at Colgate, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Bison.

Site: Lewisburg, Pa.

COLGATE

Coach: Edward Sweeney (first year at Colgate; 56-22-3 overall, 8 years).

1992 record: 4-7. Patriot: 2-3/T3rd.

Key players: Tony Barrett, SS; Mike Boorman, OT; Ryan Cook, FS; Glen Eisenberg, WR; Corey Hurst, CB; Todd Kehley, OT; Barry Paquet, WR; Mark Paske, LB; Tom Rossi, LB; John Soi, DE; Bill Sparacio, TB.

Strengths: The Red Raiders have good running backs, led by all-league selection Sparacio, and speedy wide receivers. There's also some talent at linebacker.

Weaknesses: Whoever the quarterback is, he'll have to play behind an inexperienced line. The defensive line must be rebuilt as well.

Outlook: Sweeney, a successful coach in Division III for the last eight seasons, is sticking with the I-formation Colgate is known for and familiar with. He'll bring some enthusiasm and new ideas to this program. Despite a tough non-league schedule, the Red Raiders could be the Patriot League's surprise team in 1993.

Schedule: At Rutgers, Sept. 4; at Army, Sept. 11; at Cornell, Sept. 25; Columbia, Oct. 2; Pennsylvania, Oct. 9; at Navy, Oct. 16; Lehigh, Oct. 23; at Lafayette, Oct. 30; at Fordham, Nov. 6; at Holy Cross, Nov. 13; Bucknell, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Red Raiders.

Site: Hamilton, N.Y.

FORDHAM

Coach: Larry Glueck (29-41-1, 7 years).

1992 record: 1-9. Patriot: 1-4/T5th.

Key players: Rob Birk, OT; Mark DeFranco, QB; Aaron Dougherty, DE; Shawn Harris, FL; Dave Kniese, OG; Adam Lang, FB; Sean Mackey, SE; Brian McDonough, C; Randy McKee, SE; Neil Penttinen, C; Ryan Reinert, DE; Chris Ross, TB; John Strauss, TE; Aaron Torgler, DE; Mike Wilt, CB.

Strengths: Both lines have some experienced players and Dougherty is a star.

Weaknesses: The Rams, who finished last in the league in total offense a year ago, won't be any better following the loss of the top two receivers in school history and much of the running game. DeFranco, who was sidelined all last season with a knee injury, has the inside track at quarterback.

Outlook: After two winless seasons in the Patriot League, the Rams finally won a league game last fall. They'll cherish any victories they get this year, too.

Schedule: Lehigh, Sept. 11; at Villanova, Sept. 18; at Columbia, Sept. 25; at Pennsylvania, Oct. 2; Buffalo, Oct. 9; at Cornell, Oct. 16; at Lafayette, Oct. 23; Bucknell, Oct. 30; Colgate, Nov. 6; Hofstra, Nov. 13; at Holy Cross, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Rams.

Site: Bronx, N.Y.



Russ Strohecker: *Bucknell.*



Bill Sparacio: *Colgate.*

HOLY CROSS

Coach: Peter Vaas (6-5, 1 year; 35-16-1 overall, 5 years).

1992 record: 6-5. Patriot: 4-1/2nd.

Key players: Todd Araujo, SS; Andy Fitzpatrick, QB; Mike Flanagan, OG; Mark Kirk, DE; Therman McDaniel, DT; Jeff Meader, P; Rob Milanette, LB; Scott Moody, WR; Anthony Pignio, PK; Eric Sampson, TB; Pat Smith, FS; Shannon Splaine, WR; Chris Summers, WR; Frank Visconti, OT; Scott Wikander, FB;

Reggie Willis, LB.

Strengths: The Crusaders return nine starters on offense, including all the skill-position players. The kicking game is set with Pignio, the league's most accurate field-goal kicker a year ago, and Meader, a first-team all-league punter. Milanette and Araujo are studs on defense.

Weaknesses: After Milanette and Araujo, the rest of the defense is inexperienced. The Crusaders will have nine new starters on a unit that ranked third in Division I-AA in 1992. In particular, the line and secondary need to be rebuilt. The offensive line will have some new faces, too.

Outlook: Holy Cross is coming off its worst season since joining the then-Colonial League in 1986. The Crusaders should bounce back, but their days of dominance (when they were the only team in the league to offer athletic scholarships) may be over.

Schedule: At Massachusetts, Sept. 11; Boston University, Sept. 18; at Dartmouth, Sept. 25; at Princeton, Oct. 2; Yale, Oct. 9; at Harvard, Oct. 16; at Bucknell, Oct. 23; at Lehigh, Oct. 30; Lafayette, Nov. 6; Colgate, Nov. 13; Fordham, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Crusaders.

Site: Worcester, Mass.

LAFAYETTE

Coach: Bill Russo (74-54-1, 12 years; 89-69-1 overall, 15 years).

1992 record: 8-3. Patriot: 5-0/1st.

Key players: Jason Carnevale, QB; Chris Everett, CB; Chris Flood, FB; JoJo Herndon, CB; Chris Hummel, LB; Obi Luckett, LB; Erik Marsh, TB; Derek Mast, DT; Jason McLaughlin, PK; Pete Ohnegian, DE; David Pyne, OG; Mark Reardon, SS; Craig Roubinek, TE; Ed Sasso, DT; Netta Slaughter, LB; John Troxnell, FS.

Strengths: Marsh (1,365 yards in '92, including a league-record-tying 251 in one game) leads a veteran corps of running backs. With nine starters returning on defense, the Leopards don't expect to finish last in the league in that department again.

Weaknesses: No quarterback who threw a pass last season returns. All the wide receivers and much of the offensive line will be new as well.

Outlook: Much depends upon who replaces Patriot League MVP Tom Kirchhoff at quarterback. Carnevale, a junior, will battle three freshmen for the job. With all the changes, Lafayette will be hard pressed to repeat as league champ.

Schedule: Bucknell, Sept. 11; at Buffalo, Sept. 18; Princeton, Sept. 25; at Harvard, Oct. 2; at Columbia, Oct. 9; Hofstra, Oct. 16; Fordham, Oct. 23; Colgate, Oct. 30; at Holy Cross, Nov. 6; at Army, Nov. 13; at Lehigh, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Leopards.

Site: Easton, Pa.

LEHIGH

Coach: Hank Small (40-36-1, 7 years).

1992 record: 3-8. Patriot: 2-3/T3rd.

Key players: Cody Allred, SE; Brett Almassy, DL; Michael Blunt, FS; Marcelo Campillay, OL; Dave Cecchini, FL; Byron Dyson, PK; Lance Haynes, LB; Kevin Jefferson, LB; Mark Lookenbill, TB; Jason Mastropiero, RB; Craig Melograno, P; Tony Perilla, SS; Ray Powers, OL; Kevin Rubin, SE; Doug Scott, OL; Scott Semptimphelter, QB.

Strengths: Semptimphelter is as tough to stop as his name is to spell. The Engineers should be able to run the ball better if Lookenbill can rebound from a knee injury. Mastropiero, who played well in Lookenbill's absence, also returns.

Weaknesses: Lehigh lacks speed and its multiple offense commits too many turnovers. Its minus-13 turnover ratio ranked last in the league a year ago.

Outlook: The Engineers have a tough non-league schedule, but with eight starters back on both offense and defense, they have enough experience to compete for the league title.

Schedule: At Delaware, Sept. 4; at Fordham, Sept. 11; Hofstra, Sept. 18; Brown, Sept. 25; Cornell, Oct. 2; at Princeton, Oct. 16; at Colgate, Oct. 23; Holy Cross, Oct. 30; at Bucknell, Nov. 6; at Idaho, Nov. 13; Lafayette, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Engineers.

Site: Bethlehem, Pa.

Text by Bill Doyle.

Dayton's Hofacre specializes in taking shortcuts to success

By TOM COLLINS

Evansville Courier

When the term "specialist" is used in football, people often think of a place-kicker, a fifth defensive back, or maybe a second tight end.

Seldom is a burly fullback envisioned, one whose primary function is plunging a couple of yards into the end zone for touchdowns. Unless, of course, the subject is Dayton fullback Pat Hofacre.

At 5-foot-11 and 205 pounds, Hofacre is the ultimate specialist. Of his 13 rushing touchdowns last season, nine were from one yard out and three others were from either two or three yards. His longest TD covered all of eight yards. Dayton's offense almost always deploys a full-house backfield inside its opponents' 10-yard line, even if those opponents know what's coming.

"We don't hide anything once we get down there," Hofacre said. "It's more or less, 'Here it is, can you stop our line?' I just follow the blockers."

Although used in a role often reserved for big, plodding types, Hofacre acknowledges there's a high-stepping tailback inside him somewhere.

"I'd love to get the ball 20 times," said Hofacre, whose career high was 18 carries against Hofstra last season. "But I don't complain. I hope Coach (Mike Kelly) might use me that way in the future. I'll keep plugging away and do my job. Whatever it takes to win the game."

Hofacre, who scored 100 points faster than anyone in Dayton history, enters his senior season with 234 career points, sixth on the all-time scoring list. He'd like nothing more than to score 92 points this year and finish his career first overall.

"All credit goes to the linemen," he said. "I've played behind some good ones the last

couple of years. On those short-yardage situations, I'm just following them."

Hofacre's brother, Kevin, was a fullback with the Flyers in 1989-90 and holds the school record for rushing touchdowns in one season (25). Pat Hofacre, who says matching his brother's accomplishments has never been a goal, ran for 23 touchdowns as a sophomore two years ago.

"Kevin was a power runner, like three yards and a cloud of dust," said Pat, echoing the old Woody Hayes adage. "I didn't used to be that kind of runner, but I am now. And (until Dayton reaches its opponents' 10-yard line) I'm mainly a blocker trying to spring the tailback for yardage."

It's a job he does well. Dayton tailbacks Kevin Miller and Judd Mintz combined for more than 1,300 yards and 6.4 yards per carry last season.

The Flyers, one of the nation's top Division III programs in recent years (six straight NCAA playoff appearances), have moved up to Division I-AA this season. They'll play in the non-scholarship Pioneer League with Butler, Valparaiso, Drake, Evansville and San Diego.

The Flyers, however, won't soon forget their final season in Division III. They whipped their first 10 opponents by a cumulative score of 408-67, only to lose to Mount Union, 27-10, in the first round of the NCAA playoffs.

"I don't think anyone was ready for that game—the players or the coaches," said Hofacre, who scored the Flyers' only touchdown. "Without taking anything away from Mount Union, I think they played their best game ever. They couldn't do anything wrong, and nothing was clicking for us."

"I think our whole team believed no one could stop us, and we were going to win the national championship. All we had to do was get there. But those things happen." ■



Touchdown maker: When Dayton gets close to the goal line, Pat Hofacre gets the ball.

TSN

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. DAYTON
2. BUTLER
3. SAN DIEGO
4. DRAKE
5. VALPARAISO
6. EVANSVILLE

ALL-PIONEER TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
WR	ERIC VOSS, Butler	Sr.
WR	CHAD BRILEY, Drake	Sr.
TE	HANZ HOAG, Evansville	Jr.
T	BRAD WEAVER, Valparaiso	Sr.
T	KEVIN BARRIS, San Diego	Sr.
C	KIM McWILLIAMS, Evansville	Jr.
G	JEFF MATHOT, Dayton	Sr.
G	VICTOR CRUZ, San Diego	Sr.
QB	ROB RAYL, Valparaiso	Sr.
RB	PAT HOFACRE, Dayton	Sr.
RB	RICHARD JOHNSON, Butler	Sr.

DEFENSE:

Pos.	Name, School	Class
DL	CRAIG ORTWERTH, Drake	Jr.
DL	DAN MANGEOT, Butler	Sr.
DL	STEVE LOCHOW, Dayton	Sr.
DL	CRAIG SWENSEN, Dayton	Sr.
LB	DAVE KATHMAN, Butler	Sr.
LB	JERRY MEADE, Evansville	Sr.
LB	MARCUS CARTER, San Diego	Sr.
LB	SCOTT PETCU, Valparaiso	Sr.
DB	DAN THOBE, Dayton	Sr.
DB	SHANE GREER, Butler	Sr.
DB	ED VOGEL, Evansville	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Class
PK	TIM DUVIC, Dayton	Jr.
P	ROBERT RAY, San Diego	Jr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

Pat Hofacre, RB, Dayton



DEFENSE:

Dave Kathman, LB, Butler

PIONEER TEAM CHARTS

BUTLER

Coach: Ken LaRose (8-2, 1 year).

1992 record: 8-2/T 1st in a Division II league.

Key players: Shawn Bays, DE; Jeff Burks, OT; Dave Elson, DB; Shane Greer, DB; Jon Hill, WR; Richard Johnson, RB; Dave Kathman, LB; Dan Mangeot, DT; Steve Rashevich, NG; Elgin Reese, DE; Tim Russell, OG; Todd Shaffer, C; Jason Stahl, QB; Eric Voss, WR; Ron White, P.

Strengths: Johnson is the focal point of a strong running game. Hill and Voss are two of the best receivers in school history. Kathman is a standout line-backer. The Bulldogs have six starters returning on both offense and defense and experienced special teams. This is a non-scholarship league, but Butler does have some scholarship players in its junior and senior classes.

Weaknesses: The biggest is the kicking game, where a replacement must be found for departed place-kicker Tim Witmer.

Outlook: Butler enters the Pioneer League on an optimistic note after winning back-to-back championships in the Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference, a strong Division II league.

Schedule: At Hofstra, Sept. 4; at Georgetown, Sept. 18; Drake, Sept. 25; Hillsdale (Mich.), Oct. 2; Valparaiso, Oct. 9; at Dayton, Oct. 16; at San Diego, Oct. 23; at Evansville, Oct. 30; Alabama-Birmingham, Nov. 6; at Indianapolis, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Bulldogs.

Site: Indianapolis.

DAYTON

Coach: Mike Kelly (119-22-1, 12 years).

1992 record: 10-1 as a Division III independent.

Key players: Bob Coode, DE; Tim Duvic, K; Barry Esposito, WR; Brendan Hill, LB; Pat Hofacre, FB; Doug Kraus, DT; Jay Loboda, OT; Steven Lochow, DT; Jeff Mathot, G; Judd Mintz, TB; Keith Olinger, TE; Brian Spear, SS; Craig Swensen, DE; Daniel Thobe, FS; Stan Wheeler, WR.

Strengths: The Flyers have a lot of experienced seniors on their roster. Lochow and Swensen lead a strong defense, while Hofacre paces a solid running game. Duvic is the best place-kicker in the Pioneer League.

Weaknesses: The quarterback will be a first-year starter. Except for Mathot, the offensive line has little experience.

Outlook: After great success as a Division III independent, Dayton is in an organized football league for the first time. Besides qualifying for the playoffs, the Flyers have the added incentive of winning a conference title in 1993. Don't be surprised if they do.

Schedule: Wisconsin-Platteville, Sept. 11; Wheaton (Ill.), Sept. 18; San Diego, Sept. 25; at Mount St. Joseph, Oct. 2; at Evansville, Oct. 9; Butler, Oct. 16; at Drake, Oct. 23; Valparaiso, Oct. 30; Urbana (O.), Nov. 6; at Alabama-Birmingham, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Flyers.

Site: Dayton, O.

DRAKE

Coach: Rob Ash (24-15-1, 4 years; 75-51-4 overall, 13 years).

1992 record: 7-2-1 as a Division III independent.

Key players: Chad Briley, WR/KR; Matt Conlan, TB; Jamie DeAngelo, QB; Roy Fletcher, QB; Matt Garvis, LB; Cortez Hull, TB; Brad Nemec, CB; Craig Ortwerth, DE; Todd Sauer, DT; Mike Stanfel, FB.

Strengths: Three-fourths of the defensive line returns, as well as half of the linebackers and defensive backs. Briley is a good receiver.

Weaknesses: The Bulldogs have lost both tight ends, several offensive linemen and some key defensive backfield personnel.

Outlook: It's unclear how Drake will fare in the first-year league. The Bulldogs have been competitive with Evansville and Dayton in recent years, but Butler, Valparaiso and San Diego all are new opponents.

Schedule: Simpson (Ia.), Sept. 11; at Augustana (Ill.), Sept. 18; at Butler, Sept. 25; Aurora (Ill.), Oct. 2; at Chicago, Oct. 9; at Valparaiso, Oct. 16; Dayton, Oct. 23; Benedictine (Ill.), Oct. 30; at San Diego, Nov. 6; Evansville, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Bulldogs.

Site: Des Moines, Ia.



Jerry Meade: Evansville.



Stan Wheeler: Dayton.

EVANSVILLE

Coach: Robin Cooper (12-7, 2 years; 31-14 overall, 5 years).

1992 record: 7-2 as a Division III independent.

Key players: Chad Albano, RB; Bryan Apolskis, DB; D.J. DeWees, WR; Eric Fish, QB; Kurt France, OT;

Eric Goebel, QB; Matt Hesselbart, OG; Hanz Hoag, TE; Rocky Lane, RB; Aaron Mayes, OT; Kim McWilliams, C; Jerry Meade, LB; Kevin Miller, DT; Ed Vogel, DB; Mike Wilder, WR.

Strengths: The Aces have a lot of returning starters on both offense and defense, particularly in the lines, both of which should be strong. The linebacking crew, led by Meade, is solid. Hoag is one of the best tight ends in Division I-AA.

Weaknesses: Who's going to throw the ball to Hoag and run the offense? Evansville also lacks team speed, most notably on offense, where there are no game-breakers.

Outlook: The Aces have few seniors on the roster and may have freshmen and sophomores filling half of the starting jobs. Most of those underclassmen have game experience, so Evansville hopes to be competitive. A middle-of-the-pack finish in the Pioneer would be a positive first-year step, but perhaps an unrealistic one.

Schedule: At Franklin (Ind.), Sept. 11; Kentucky Wesleyan, Sept. 18; Rose-Hulman (Ind.), Sept. 25; at Adrian (Mich.), Oct. 2; Dayton, Oct. 9; San Diego, Oct. 16; at Valparaiso, Oct. 23; Butler, Oct. 30; Cumberland (Tenn.), Nov. 6; at Drake, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Purple Aces.

Site: Evansville, Ind.

SAN DIEGO

Coach: Brian Fogarty (54-40-3, 10 years).

1992 record: 7-2-1 as a Division III independent.

Key players: Kevin Barres, OT; Scott Buccola, DB; Marcus Carter, LB; Victor Cruz, OG; Jaime Gutierrez, WR/RB; Michael Henry, HB; John Lambert, FB; Tim Lynch, LB; Vince Moiso, QB; Darrick Morse, WR; Robert Ray, P/QB; Randy Rivera, FS; Scott Steingrege, TE; Neal Weitman, LB; Matt Zeller, C.

Strengths: The offensive line, led by Cruz, Barres and Zeller, is formidable. The Toreros use a wing-T offense that employs four running backs, and three of last season's runners are back. Ray was the top punter in Division III last season.

Weaknesses: The three down linemen in San Diego's 3-4 defense of a year ago have graduated, and replacements must be found for three starters in the secondary as well. Moiso has little experience at quarterback.

Outlook: The Toreros figure to be a weary lot after a stretch of four straight road games in the middle of the season—three of them east of the Mississippi River. Still, they could do well in a new league against unfamiliar opponents.

Schedule: Menlo College (Calif.), Sept. 4; La Verne, Sept. 11; at Dayton, Sept. 25; at Valparaiso, Oct. 2; at California Lutheran, Oct. 9; at Evansville, Oct. 16; Butler, Oct. 23; Azusa Pacific, Oct. 30; Drake, Nov. 6; Wagner, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Toreros.

Site: San Diego.

VALPARAISO

Coach: Tom Horne (5-35-1, 4 years; 22-48-2 overall, 7 years).

1992 record: 3-8 in a Division II league.

Key players: Trevor Bell, FB; Josh Berning, LB; Jason Brandenburg, CB; Bryan Buck, OG; Todd Elder, DT; Gil Gutierrez, K; John Lyon, OT; John Palyor, DE; Scott Petcu, LB; Rob Rayl, QB; Shane Snider, FS; Chris Stringer, CB; Jon Unger, TE; Brad Weaver, OT; Ozzie Young, HB.

Strengths: Seven starters, led by quarterback Rayl, are back on offense. Six starters return on defense. Gutierrez, who sat out all of last season with an injury, also returns.

Weaknesses: The secondary is the weakest link in a weak defense.

Outlook: The Crusaders hope to be competitive in their first season in Division I-AA, but that may be wishful thinking. They've had trouble with Division II teams in recent years.

Schedule: At St. Ambrose (Ia.), Sept. 4; St. Xavier (Ill.), Sept. 11; at Millikin (Ill.), Sept. 18; San Diego, Oct. 2; at Butler, Oct. 9; Drake, Oct. 16; Evansville, Oct. 23; at Dayton, Oct. 30; Michigan Tech, Nov. 6; at Northern Arizona, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Crusaders.

Site: Valparaiso, Ind.

Text by Tom Collins.

Pressure? Marshall's new QB (and coach's son) can handle it

By JEFF D'ALESSIO

Charleston Daily Mail

All his life, Todd Donnan has subscribed to the theory that father knows best.

And so, in 1990, when Donnan was an option quarterback at Norman (Okla.) High School who went unnoticed by NCAA Division I-AA recruiters, he turned to his father, Marshall Coach Jim Donnan, for counsel.

Come to Marshall, Jim told Todd.

An easy sell.

"I always wanted to play football for my father," Todd said three years later. "I look back on it now, and this is the best situation I could possibly be in."

In 1993, Todd will try to fill the shoes of departed quarterback Michael Payton, who passed for over 3,000 yards in each of the last two seasons, led Marshall to the 1992 Division I-AA title and earned I-AA Player of the Year honors. The burden of keeping the Thundering Herd among the I-AA elite rests with the coach's kid, a cerebral, seasoned junior.

What keeps the 6-foot, 183-pound Todd Donnan from buckling?

"He's got that moxie about him," said Jim Donnan, who enters his fourth year at Marshall. "He's always had a good feel for the game, knowing what he can do and what he can't do."

Todd's composure can be traced directly to his father, a football lifer who starred as North Carolina State's quarterback from 1965-67 and spent five years as Oklahoma's offensive coordinator during the program's glory days of the mid-1980s.

Both father and son are strong-willed, confident men. Both have reason to be.

When Todd arrived in Huntington, W.Va., in the summer of 1991, he harbored thoughts of redshirting, playing on the scout team and learning all the intricacies of Marshall's pro-style offense.

Those plans were altered shortly thereafter, when Payton's backup, sophomore Cliff Scott, announced that he was transferring to the University of Buffalo.

"We had no choice," Jim said. "We had to play Todd that first year."

The freshman responded by hitting 43 of 82 passes for 699 yards and nine touchdowns during Marshall's I-AA national runner-up campaign. He started two regular-season games when Payton succumbed to a stomach virus, posting a 1-1 record and keeping the Herd's playoff hopes alive with a 27-24 triple-overtime victory over West-ern Carolina.

Still, Todd Donnan wasn't satisfied.

"After those games," he said, "there were always doubts in my mind. 'What am I going to do next year? Am I going to be able to handle it?' I wasn't sure."

Perish the thought.

What Todd now refers to as "the best thing that ever happened to me" came on a



He knows he can: Todd Donnan is confident he can succeed as Marshall's starting quarterback.

blustery day in Huntington last December. The occasion was a quarterfinal playoff game against Middle Tennessee State, which Jim Donnan had billed as the most formidable opponent a Herd team had faced in his tenure.

With seven minutes, 13 seconds to go in the first quarter and Marshall ahead, 7-0, Payton was sidelined with a knee injury. Enter Todd Donnan.

"We had to send a signal to Todd and to the rest of the team that we felt like he could do the job," Jim Donnan recalled. "We didn't pull in the reins. We just stuck with our game plan."

The Marshall offense didn't miss a beat. Todd completed 13 of 23 passes for 246 yards and three TDs in a 35-21 Marshall victory.

"It was a tremendous burden off Todd's shoulders to go out and do it with the band playing," Jim said.

Said Todd: "That game gave me all the confidence in the world. When I come up to the line from now on and have any doubts, I can just look back at that game."

Todd Donnan is one of eight new starters on a Marshall offense that averaged 42 points per game last season. He enters 1993 with an unabashed air about him and with big-game experience. ■

TSN

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. WESTERN CAROLINA
2. MARSHALL
3. GEORGIA SOUTHERN
4. FURMAN
5. APPALACHIAN STATE
6. THE CITADEL
7. UT-CHATTANOOGA
8. EAST TENNESSEE STATE
9. VIRGINIA MILITARY INST.

ALL-SOUTHERN TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
WR	CRAIG AIKEN, Western Carolina	Jr.
WR	KERRY HAYES, Western Carolina	Jr.
TE	DEMARKO KEMP, UT-Chattanooga	Jr.
T	CHRIS DEATON, Marshall	Sr.
T	THOMAS JACKSON, Western Carolina	Sr.
C	WES GREENWELL, Western Carolina	Soph.
G	MIGUEL AYOUB, Georgia Southern	Sr.
G	TREVOR THOMAS, Marshall	Sr.
QB	LONNIE GALLOWAY, Western Carolina	Sr.
RB	EVERETTE SANDS, The Citadel	Sr.
RB	KEVIN THIGPEN, Western Carolina	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
DL	ALEX MASH, Georgia Southern	Sr.
DL	RYAN LIVEZEY, Furman	Sr.
DL	RODNEY GARRETT, Marshall	Sr.
LB	BRENT DAVID, Appalachian State	Sr.
LB	SHANNON KING, Marshall	Sr.
LB	WILLIAM KING, Marshall	Sr.
LB	MILAN STERLING, Furman	Sr.
DB	TONY BALLARD, UT-Chattanooga	Jr.
DB	JULIUS GRANT, Western Carolina	Sr.
DB	ROGER JOHNSON, Marshall	Jr.
DB	MOE KELLY, East Tennessee State	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Class
PK	PHIL SHIRLEY, Western Carolina	Jr.
P	KENNY PAULEY, Western Carolina	Sr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

Lonnie Galloway, QB, West. Carolina



DEFENSE:

William King, LB, Marshall

SOUTHERN TEAM CHARTS

APPALACHIAN STATE

Coach: Jerry Moore (30-17, 4 years; 57-65-2 overall, 11 years).

1992 record: 7-5 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs). Southern: 5-2/T2nd.

Key players: Kenny Bright, FS; Brent David, LB; Shawn Elliott, LB; Vinson Fraley, DT; Ray Gama, FL; Chip Hooks, RB; Brad Ohrt, OG; John Porter, OT; Kevin Sikorski, DE; Johnny Smith, FB; Matt Stevens, CB; Craig Styron, SE.

Strengths: Hooks is the key to the Mountaineers' ground-oriented attack. David, a two-time all-conference selection, is the top stopper on an inexperienced defense. Styron and Gama are solid receivers. Three-fourths of the secondary returns.

Weaknesses: Punter Harold Alexander, linebacker Rico Mack, defensive lineman Avery Hall and four-year starting quarterback D.J. Campbell all are gone. Hooks is one of just four returning starters on offense. Three offensive linemen must be replaced.

Outlook: Appalachian State has lost too many key people to make a return trip to the playoffs.

Schedule: At North Carolina A&T, Sept. 4; Liberty, Sept. 11; at Wake Forest, Sept. 18; at The Citadel, Sept. 25; East Tennessee State, Oct. 2; at Furman, Oct. 9; Georgia Southern, Oct. 16; at Marshall, Oct. 23; UT-Chattanooga, Oct. 30; Western Carolina, Nov. 13; at Virginia Military Institute, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Mountaineers.

Site: Boone, N.C.

THE CITADEL

Coach: Charlie Taaffe (42-27-1, 6 years).

1992 record: 11-2 (including 1-1 in I-AA playoffs). Southern: 6-1/1st.

Key players: Detric Cummings, DB; Levi Davis, OG; Jake Erhard, DT; C.J. Haynes, QB; Erick Little, HB; Brent Norris, OG; Quincy Powell, DT; Terrance Rivers, HB; Everette Sands, FB; Ahren Self, DB; Garrett Sizer, DE; Mike Wideman, LB; Micah Young, LB.

Strengths: Sands is a punishing runner and the premier back in a league full of them. Little is a nice complement to Sands. Four fifth-year players are back on defense, led by Sizer.

Weaknesses: Without Jack Douglas as its director, the Bulldogs' wishbone is bound to bend. Gone, too, are all five starting offensive linemen. Argh. All-America defensive backs Lester Smith and Torrence Forney also have departed. The kicking game is lacking.

Outlook: Life after Douglas won't be rosy at The Citadel, which finished tied for first in the final Division I-AA poll last season.

Schedule: Wofford (S.C.), Sept. 4; at Georgia Southern, Sept. 11; at Western Carolina, Sept. 18; Appalachian State, Sept. 25; Lees McRae (N.C.), Oct. 2; at East Tennessee State, Oct. 9; Furman, Oct. 16; at Air Force, Oct. 23; Marshall, Oct. 30; at UT-Chattanooga, Nov. 6; Virginia Military Institute, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Bulldogs.

Site: Charleston, S.C.

EAST TENNESSEE STATE

Coach: Mike Cavan (5-6, 1 year).

1992 record: 5-6. Southern: 2-5/6th.

Key players: Gabe Berry, QB; Stacey Bowman, OG; Fonzy Cecil, DT; Scotty Dykes, WR; Derrick Hollins, TB; Richie Johnson, LB; Bobby Kaylor, C; Moe Kelly, DB; Cory Lindsey, WR; Chad Radcliffe, OT; David Treherne, DT; Theo Williams, LB.

Strengths: The well-armed Berry is back at the helm after an injury-plagued freshman season. Hollins provides some offensive oomph. The dynamic Dykes has recovered from an injury that forced him to miss all of last season. The secondary is solid.

Weaknesses: An inexperienced defensive line could struggle. Most of the offensive line will feature newcomers. The tight end position is unsettled.

Outlook: Cavan has this program headed in the right direction. Just give it a few years.

Schedule: Wingate (N.C.), Sept. 4; Mars Hill (N.C.), Sept. 11; at Virginia Military Institute, Sept. 18; at Furman, Sept. 25; at Appalachian State, Oct. 2; The Citadel, Oct. 9; Western Carolina, Oct. 16; at Clemson, Oct. 23; at Marshall, Nov. 6; UT-Chattanooga, Nov. 13; Georgia Southern, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Buccaneers.

Site: Johnson City, Tenn.

FURMAN

Coach: Jimmy Satterfield (61-24-2, 7 years).

1992 record: 6-5. Southern: 4-3/5th.

Key players: Damon Bradley, SE; Rick Ford, SE; Rod Green, FB; Mike Hardy, DT; Philly Jones, QB; Ryan Livezey, DE; John Ludwig, OT; Milan Sterling, LB; Chris Turner, NG; Andre Worrell, CB.

Strengths: Livezey, Sterling and Worrell lead a defense that has six starters back. The line, with three starters returning, is the strongest part of that unit. The receiving corps of Bradley and Ford remains intact. After two seasons of apprenticeship, Jones holds promise as a passer.

Weaknesses: The running game may never be the same without Carl Tremble. Three-fifths of the offensive line is gone, too, leaving Jones vulnerable in his first season as the starter.

Outlook: The Paladins' Purple reign in the Southern Conference is over, but with a good year from Jones, they could contend.

Schedule: Connecticut, Sept. 4; at Georgia Tech, Sept. 11; Wofford (S.C.), Sept. 18; East Tennessee State, Sept. 25; at Western Carolina, Oct. 2; Appalachian State, Oct. 9; at The Citadel, Oct. 16; Virginia Military Institute, Oct. 30; at Georgia Southern, Nov. 6; Marshall, Nov. 13; at UT-Chattanooga, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Paladins.

Site: Greenville, S.C.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Coach: Tim Stowers (26-11, 4 years).

1992 record: 7-4 as an independent.

Key players: Shawn Austin, CB; Miguel Ayoub, OG; Charles Bostick, QB; Paul Carroll, LB; Nick Davis, LB; Darius Dawson, LB; Joe Dupree, QB; Alex Mash, DE; Brandon Rozzelle, CB; James Williams, FB.

Strengths: The fiery Mash leads a defense that returns nine starters. Linebackers Carroll, Dawson and Davis were the Eagles' top three tacklers. Three returning starters, including Ayoub, make the offensive line the best in the league. Leading rusher Williams is a punishing fullback.

Weaknesses: The departures of All-America offensive tackle Rex Nottage and team captain/three-year free safety Don Hudson are the most critical. Juniors Bostick and Dupree will vie for the unsettled quarterback job. The secondary lacks experience.

Outlook: As if this conference weren't brawny enough already, here come the Eagles. If either Bostick or Dupree develops, a conference title is well within reach.

Schedule: Savannah (Ga.) State, Sept. 4; The Citadel, Sept. 11; at Marshall, Sept. 18; UT-Chattanooga, Sept. 25; at Miami (Fla.), Oct. 2; Western Carolina, Oct. 9; at Appalachian State, Oct. 16; at Virginia Military Institute, Oct. 23; Furman, Nov. 6; Concord (W.Va.), Nov. 13; at East Tennessee State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Eagles.

Site: Statesboro, Ga.

MARSHALL

Coach: Jim Donnan (29-12, 3 years).

1992 record: 12-3 (including 4-0 in I-AA playoffs). Southern: 5-2/T2nd.

Key players: Ricky Carter, WR; Melvin Cunningham, DB; Chris Deaton, OL; Todd Donnan, QB; Rodney Garrett, DE; Roger Johnson, DB; Shannon King, LB; William King, LB; Shannon Morrison, DB; Chris Parker, RB; Glenn Pedro, TB; Donahue Stephenson, LB; Trevor Thomas, OL.

Strengths: In the Kings and Stephenson, the Herd boasts the premier linebacking corps in Division I-AA. The defensive line is fierce. The passing game is potent. Johnson and Morrison are the league's top safeties. The kicking game is solid and underrated.

Weaknesses: Young, untested cornerbacks again are a problem. Three-fifths of the offensive line is new. The tight ends lack experience.

Outlook: With four All-Americans gone on offense, defense is the key to the Thundering Herd's chance of repeating as national champion. Seven home games assure them at least of contending.

Schedule: Morehead State, Sept. 4; Murray State, Sept. 11; Georgia Southern, Sept. 18; UT-Chattanooga, Oct. 2; Virginia Military Institute, Oct. 9; at North Carolina State, Oct. 16; Appalachian State, Oct. 23; at The Citadel, Oct. 30; East Tennessee State, Nov. 6; at Furman, Nov. 13; Western Carolina, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Thundering Herd.

Site: Huntington, W.Va.

UT-CHATTANOOGA

Coach: Tommy West (first year as head coach).

1992 record: 2-9. Southern: 0-7/8th.

Key players: Bobby Acree, SE; Tony Ballard, CB; Kenyon Earl, QB; Jerry Ellison, RB; Derek Hall, FL; Demarko Kemp, TE; Tim McKenzie, SS; Terrell Owens, SE; Chad Suttles, LB; Tobe Taylor, RB.

Strengths: Earl, who was brilliant as a freshman in 1991, proved to be merely mortal last year without his star-studded supporting cast. He has it back in '93. Ellison is among the league's best backs; Kemp and Acree are among the top receivers. The secondary, led by Ballard, is solid.

Weaknesses: Replacements must be found for two offensive linemen and one receiver. The defense, which lost just four players, must be more consistent.

Outlook: The coaching reins belong to West following the ouster of longtime coach Buddy Nix. With the erratic Earl at the controls, the Moccasins could do much better than eighth place. Or worse.

Schedule: At UT-Martin, Sept. 2; at Mississippi, Sept. 11; Gardner-Webb (N.C.), Sept. 18; at Georgia Southern, Sept. 25; Marshall, Oct. 2; at Virginia Military Institute, Oct. 16; Western Carolina, Oct. 23; at Appalachian State, Oct. 30; The Citadel, Nov. 6; at East Tennessee State, Nov. 13; Furman, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Moccasins.

Site: Chattanooga, Tenn.

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

Coach: Jim Shuck (13-30-1, 4 years).

1992 record: 3-8. Southern: 1-6/7th.

Key players: Marlon Anderson, SE; Dewayne Arkadie, SS; Rob Clark, HB; John Devlin, LB; Geoff Goff, K; Spike Johnson, QB; Bryant McMillian, FB; Camillus Musselman, LB; Erik Reynolds, QB; Charles Sanders, OG; Terry Tucker, FS; Eric Walker, RB.

Strengths: Seven starters return on a respectable defense, including Musselman and Devlin. The secondary is solid with Tucker and Arkadie. Anderson was one of the conference's top freshmen a year ago. Sanders spearheads a young offensive line.

Weaknesses: Quarterback Tony Scales, the Keydets' all-time total yardage leader, is irreplaceable. Graduation losses have left gaping holes at tight end and along much of the offensive line, too.

Outlook: The Keydets' veteran defense may be able to contain a few Southern Conference offenses, but scoring points will be a problem.

Schedule: At Richmond, Sept. 4; East Tennessee State, Sept. 18; at Army, Sept. 25; William & Mary (at Norfolk, Va.), Oct. 2; at Marshall, Oct. 9; UT-Chattanooga, Oct. 16; Georgia Southern, Oct. 23; at Furman, Oct. 30; at Western Carolina, Nov. 6; at The Citadel, Nov. 13; Appalachian State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Keydets.

Site: Lexington, Va.

WESTERN CAROLINA

Coach: Steve Hodgins (12-21, 3 years).

1992 record: 7-4. Southern: 5-2/T2nd.

Key players: Craig Aiken, WR; Lonnie Galloway, QB; Julius Grant, FS; Wes Greenwell, C; Kerry Hayes, FL; Thomas Jackson, OT; Tony Johnson, NG; Kenny Pauley, P; Phil Shirley, K; Kevin Thigpen, TB.

Strengths: Galloway, Hayes, Aiken and Thigpen are the keys to a potent offense. The entire defense is formidable. Grant and Johnson rank among the league's top stoppers. The kicking game is the finest in the Southern Conference.

Weaknesses: Although the offensive line must be rebuilt after the loss of three starters, the biggest question is: How will the Catamounts respond to front-runner status? They haven't had to handle the pressure of being favored to win much of anything lately.

Outlook: All that stands between the Catamounts and the conference championship is themselves.

Schedule: At Kansas, Sept. 4; The Citadel, Sept. 18; North Carolina A&T, Sept. 25; Furman, Oct. 2; at Georgia Southern, Oct. 9; at East Tennessee State, Oct. 16; at UT-Chattanooga, Oct. 23; Newberry (S.C.), Oct. 30; Virginia Military Institute, Nov. 6; at Appalachian State, Nov. 13; at Marshall, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Catamounts.

Site: Cullowhee, N.C.

Text by Jeff D'Alessio.

McNeese State's Terry Irving finally has his own identity

By CARL DUBOIS

Lake Charles American Press

A case of mistaken identity helped Terry Irving matriculate at McNeese State four years ago. Since his arrival, Irving has steadily established an identity of his own.

An inside linebacker, Irving last season became McNeese State's first consensus All-America and was named Southland Conference Defensive Player of the Year. But Irving might not have ended up at McNeese at all if he hadn't impersonated a blue-chip prospect while in high school.

Irving was a junior varsity linebacker at Galveston (Tex.) Ball High School when a McNeese State assistant coach came to scout teammate Sean Judge in 1987. Judge was sidelined with an injury at the time, so Irving started in his place that night at middle linebacker.

"They thought they were watching Sean, but they were watching me," Irving said. "After they watched the films and talked to our coach, Coach told them it was me. That's when they first got interested in me."

As it turned out, McNeese signed Judge that season and Irving the next. Bobby Keasler wasn't at McNeese State at the time, but the Cowboys' head coach is glad to have inherited such a talented player.

"We could see when we came in here (December 1989) that Terry was going to be a player," Keasler said. "We didn't sign him, but we're happy to have him."

After being redshirted in 1989, Irving has been a starter since midway through his 1990 freshman season. The Cowboys, not coincidentally, have improved every year. In 1991, McNeese State tied for the Southland title and made its first trip to the Division I-AA playoffs; last year, the 9-4 Cowboys won a Division I-AA playoff game for the first time before losing in the quarterfinals.

"All of the seniors want to go at least a step further this year," Irving said. "We think we have the defense to win it all. That's our goal."

The offense got the bulk of the attention last year at McNeese, which rallied to win six games in the final 2:28. This year, defense should be the Cowboys' strength.

"Terry's going to make us a better football team just by his example," Keasler said. "None of the awards have gone to his head. In fact, he works harder now than ever, because he wants to keep improving."

Irving broke his hand in McNeese's third game last season. Thanks to an open date, he missed only one game. The injury, however, required some adjustments. Because of padding Irving wore to protect his hand, he couldn't use his fingers and was unable to wrap up ballcarriers with both hands.

"It's amazing what he did without having fingers to grasp with," Keasler said. "He



Don't be confused: Linebacker Terry Irving has made a name for himself at McNeese State.

played with a lot of heart last year."

Although the injury prevented Irving from lifting weights for three months, he was back in form by the end of spring practice. His crushing tackles were among the highlights of the Cowboys' spring workouts.

That type of comeback, however, wasn't new to Irving. He played with a similar injury in high school, and he learned some lessons from watching teammate Dana Scott, an all-conference defensive lineman, return from a knee injury in 1991.

"When I saw him work hard and never quit, I knew I could do it," Irving said.

Irving is starting to attract attention from pro scouts. At 6-foot-2, 225 pounds, he's a potential National Football League outside linebacker or strong safety.

"They see how he accelerates to the football, and I think that's his greatest physical asset," linebackers coach Mike Collins said. "I think his only possible drawback could be his size, but I expect him to get bigger before next April."

Irving dedicated the many awards he won last season to his mother, who died just before 1992 spring workouts after a brief fight with cancer.

"My goal has always been to play in the NFL and buy a house for my parents," he said. "If I make it, I'm going to buy a house for my dad, but I'll be thinking of my mom all the way."

There won't be any confusion when pro scouts watch Irving play in 1993. He's the one they'll be coming to see. ■

TSN

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. MCNEESE STATE
2. NORTHEAST LOUISIANA
3. SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE
4. NORTHWESTERN STATE
5. NORTH TEXAS
6. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE
7. SAM HOUSTON STATE
8. NICHOLLS STATE

ALL-SOUTHLAND TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
WR	ADAM HENRY, McNeese State	Sr.
WR	MICHAEL PEARCE, Stephen F. Austin St.	Soph.
TE	DUKE DOCTOR, Northeast Louisiana	Sr.
T	ALVIN PASCHAL, Northeast Louisiana	Jr.
T	MARCUS SPEARS, Northwestern State	Sr.
C	SAM BREAUX, McNeese State	Sr.
G	CHARLIE NELSON, Southwest Texas State	Sr.
G	BLAYNE RUSH, McNeese State	Sr.
QB	MITCH MAHER, North Texas	Jr.
RB	HENRY FIELDS, McNeese State	Soph.
RB	DEON RIDGELL, Northwestern State	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
DL	JAMES FOLSTON, Northeast Louisiana	Sr.
DL	ERIC KIDD, McNeese State	Sr.
DL	DANA SCOTT, McNeese State	Jr.
LB	TERRY IRVING, McNeese State	Sr.
LB	PHILLIP KING, Northeast Louisiana	Sr.
LB	WILLIE MITCHELL, Stephen F. Austin State	Jr.
LB	ED MOSES, Northwestern State	Sr.
DB	LANCE GUIDRY, McNeese State	Sr.
DB	DARRYL POUNDS, Nicholls State	Jr.
DB	FRED THOMPSON, Northwestern State	Sr.
DB	CEDRIC WALKER, Stephen F. Austin State	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Class
PK	RAY WHITEHEAD, Southwest Texas State	Jr.
P	PAT NECK, McNeese State	Sr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

Mitch
Maher,
QB, North Texas



DEFENSE:

Terry
Irving,
LB, McNeese State

SOUTHLAND TEAM CHARTS

MCNEESE STATE

Coach: Bobby Keasler (21-13-2, 3 years).
1992 record: 9-4 (including 1-1 in I-AA playoffs).
Southland: 6-1/2nd.

Key players: Sam Breaux, C; Brian Brumfield, SS; Henry Fields, TB; Lance Guidry, SS; Adam Henry, WR; Terry Irving, LB; Kerry Joseph, QB; Eric Kidd, DT; Pat Neck, P; Blayne Rush, OG; Dana Scott, DE.

Strengths: The defense returns six proven starters, including linebacker Irving. League Rookie of the Year Joseph and 1,000-yard rusher Fields return. The kicking is sound, and newcomers will add depth to the defense.

Weaknesses: Lack of depth on the offensive line is a major concern. The Cowboys also need to learn to develop and nurture a killer instinct.

Outlook: This year's team vows to advance beyond the quarterfinal round of the I-AA playoffs, where its season ended last year. With luck, and a minimum of injuries on the offensive line, McNeese State has the team to do it.

Schedule: Northern Iowa, Sept. 4; Eastern Illinois, Sept. 11; at Illinois State, Sept. 18; at Central Florida, Sept. 25; at Northeast Louisiana, Oct. 9; North Texas, Oct. 16; Sam Houston State, Oct. 23; at Stephen F. Austin State, Oct. 30; at Southwest Texas State, Nov. 6; at Northwestern State, Nov. 13; Nicholls State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Cowboys.
Site: Lake Charles, La.

NICHOLLS STATE

Coach: Rick Rhoades (first year; 32-14-1 overall, 4 years).

1992 record: 1-9-1. Southland: 0-6-1/8th.

Key players: Brett Adams, LB; David Baker, WR; Demetrius Crawford, LB; Matt Hodson, TE; David Johnson, WR; Michael Morris, LB; Darryl Pounds, DB; Allen Rudolph, OL; Clyde Washington, RB; Michael Wills, DB.

Strengths: Nine starters are back on defense, led by defensive back Pounds. The receivers are the best asset on an anemic offense.

Weaknesses: Nicholls State lacks a proven quarterback and lost two of its top three running backs. Both lines are iffy.

Outlook: Rhoades' experience should bring the Colonels back to life, but not this season. The biggest challenge he faces is keeping morale high during a rebuilding and teaching year.

Schedule: At Livingston (Ala.), Sept. 11; Troy State, Sept. 18; Northeast Louisiana, Sept. 25; Samford, Oct. 2; at Northwestern State, Oct. 9; at Stephen F. Austin State, Oct. 16; Southwest Texas State, Oct. 23; at Southern, Oct. 30; Sam Houston State, Nov. 6; at North Texas, Nov. 13; at McNeese State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Colonels.
Site: Thibodaux, La.

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

Coach: Dave Roberts (28-17-2, 4 years; 54-47-3 overall, 9 years).

1992 record: 10-3 (including 1-1 in I-AA playoffs).
Southland: 7-0/1st.

Key players: Dennis Bamburg, WR; Kendall Bussey, RB (transfer/Colorado); Robert Cobb, QB; Duke Doctor, TE; Tommy Fagan, DE; James Folston, DE/LB; Sammie Fudge, FB; Lennie Jenkins, DT; Phillip King, LB; Alvin Paschal, OT; Irving Spikes, RB (transfer/Alabama); Steffret Williams, SE.

Strengths: The defense is led by talented linebackers Folston and King. Running backs Bussey and Spikes could be the league's top newcomers. The versatile Doctor and Bamburg are two good receivers.

Weaknesses: The Indians lost 16 starters from a team that finished the '92 regular season ranked No. 1 in I-AA. Roberts must replace four players who were picked in the NFL draft as well as the highest-percentage passer in league history.

Outlook: Losing all of those starters won't devastate the Indians. The trick for Roberts is mixing transfers with returning players while maintaining a semblance of cohesiveness and stability.

Schedule: At Eastern Washington, Sept. 4; Eastern Kentucky, Sept. 11; at Southern Mississippi, Sept. 18; at Nicholls State, Sept. 25; Northwestern State, Oct. 2; McNeese State, Oct. 9; at Southwest Texas State, Oct. 16; Stephen F. Austin State, Oct. 23; at



Deon Ridgell: Northwestern State.

Arkansas State, Nov. 6; at Sam Houston State, Nov. 13; North Texas, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Indians.
Site: Monroe, La.

NORTH TEXAS

Coach: Dennis Parker (7-14-1, 2 years).

1992 record: 4-7. Southland: 3-4/5th.

Key players: David Brown, WR; Terrance Brown, RB; Richard DeFelice, K; Clayton George, SE; Umofa Gibson, CB; Shawn Hicks, LB; Mitch Maher, QB; Troy Redwine, RB; Dan Shurley, FB; Benny Valentine, QB.

Strengths: Quarterback Maher is the biggest bright spot. Southland Newcomer of the Year Terrance Brown is back at running back, and three defensive backs also return. DeFelice is the league's most underrated kicker.

Weaknesses: The program is still rebuilding, and many questions must be answered by new arrivals. A killer schedule won't help matters.

Outlook: The Eagles are on their way back to respectability and could surprise one of the top teams.

Schedule: At Nebraska, Sept. 4; at Northern Arizona, Sept. 11; Southwest Missouri State, Sept. 18; Abilene Christian, Sept. 25; Southwest Texas State, Oct. 9; at McNeese State, Oct. 16; Northwestern State, Oct. 23; at Sam Houston State, Oct. 30; Stephen F. Austin State, Nov. 6; Nicholls State, Nov. 13; at Northeast Louisiana, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Eagles.
Site: Denton, Tex.

NORTHWESTERN STATE

Coach: Sam Goodwin (57-52-3, 10 years; 66-63-4 overall, 12 years).

1992 record: 7-4. Southland: 4-3/3rd.

Key players: Steve Brown, SE; Joe Cummings, DE; John Dippel, C; Jerome Keys, LB; Brad Laird, QB (RS/shoulder); Ed Moses, LB; George Paul, OG; Deon Ridgell, TB; Marcus Spears, OT; Fred Thompson, SS.

Strengths: Offensive tackle Spears and tailback Ridgell are impact players. The defense is sound at linebacker and in the secondary.

Weaknesses: Newcomers and redshirts must fill some big holes. The Demons lost some good skill-position players on offense. The defensive line is inexperienced, and the kicking is mediocre.

Outlook: Goodwin will find a way to win. The Demons have holes throughout their lineup, but they have a history of surpassing expectations.

Schedule: At Southern, Sept. 4; Troy State, Sept. 11; East Texas, Sept. 25; at Northeast Louisiana, Oct. 2; Nicholls State, Oct. 9; at Sam Houston State, Oct. 16; at North Texas, Oct. 23; Southwest Texas State, Oct. 30; at Eastern Illinois, Nov. 6; McNeese State, Nov. 13; Stephen F. Austin State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Demons.
Site: Natchitoches, La.

SAM HOUSTON STATE

Coach: Ron Randleman (64-56-3, 11 years; 151-98-3 overall, 24 years).

1992 record: 6-3-2. Southland: 3-2-2/4th.

Key players: Dwight Gross, QB; Charles Harris, TB; Don Henson, OT; Billy Holmes, LB; Kevin Johnson, OG; Elvin Massenburg, DT; Mitchell Moore, DB; Kevin Riley, DB; John Solomon, DE.

Strengths: Harris leads a talented backfield that should excel behind a transfer-reinforced offensive line. The defense has several athletic performers and a big-play tradition.

Weaknesses: Four-year starter Ashley Van Meter must be replaced at quarterback. Only four starters return on defense. Sam Houston must cut down on its sacks allowed.

Outlook: Randleman's patience will be tested this season. The Bearcats will battle lowly Nicholls State to avoid finishing in the basement.

Schedule: At Southeast Missouri State, Sept. 11; at Rice, Sept. 18; Texas A&I, Sept. 25; at Alcorn State, Oct. 2; Stephen F. Austin State, Oct. 9; Northwestern State, Oct. 16; at McNeese State, Oct. 23; North Texas, Oct. 30; at Nicholls State, Nov. 6; Northeast Louisiana, Nov. 13; at Southwest Texas State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Bearcats.
Site: Huntsville, Tex.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE

Coach: Jim Bob Helduser (5-5-1, 1 year).

1992 record: 5-5-1. Southland: 2-4-1/6th.

Key players: Victor Carr, DT; John Hygh, QB; Michael Ivory, RB; Brian McCray, CB; Donald Miller, FB; Charlie Nelson, OG; Clint Petty, LB; Nelson Robinson, SS; Spicer Sigman, OL; Ray Whitehead, K.

Strengths: Eight starters return to an offense that ranked 10th in I-AA in rushing last season. Quarterback Hygh, a capable run-pass threat, will be improved. The offensive line may be the league's best, and two good receivers return. Whitehead is the league's most consistent place-kicker.

Weaknesses: The defense has just four starters back. The Bobcats need to learn how to win close games.

Outlook: Helduser must cultivate an ability to win the close games before the Bobcats become college football's Brooklyn Dodgers.

Schedule: Texas A&I, Sept. 4; at Idaho, Sept. 11; Liberty, Sept. 18; at Northern Iowa, Sept. 25; at North Texas, Oct. 9; Northeast Louisiana, Oct. 16; at Nicholls State, Oct. 23; at Northwestern State, Oct. 30; McNeese State, Nov. 6; at Stephen F. Austin State, Nov. 13; Sam Houston State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Bobcats.
Site: San Marcos, Tex.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE

Coach: John Pearce (3-8, 1 year).

1992 record: 3-8. Southland: 1-6/7th.

Key players: Cally Belcher, DB; Michael Everhart, LB; Mike Goddard, QB; Scott Griggs, OL; Leonard Harris, RB; Johnny Jernigan, DL; Curtis Luper, RB; Willie Mitchell, LB; Michael Pearce, WR; Chris Roberson, DL; Terrance Shaw, DB; Cedric Walker, CB.

Strengths: Nine starters are back on one of the league's best defensive units. Cornerback Walker is outstanding, while Everhart and Mitchell are among the league's best linebackers. If someone gets the ball to receiver Pearce, he will excel. The running backs are sound, and the kicking game is adequate.

Weaknesses: The offensive line still must develop, and the quarterbacks have been disappointing for two seasons.

Outlook: This could be a pivotal year of seasoning that helps thrust the Lumberjacks back into the upper division in '94.

Schedule: Idaho, Sept. 4; Youngstown State, Sept. 11; Livingston (Ala.), Sept. 18; at Boise State, Sept. 25; at Sam Houston State, Oct. 9; Nicholls State, Oct. 16; at Northeast Louisiana, Oct. 23; McNeese State, Oct. 30; at North Texas, Nov. 6; Southwest Texas State, Nov. 13; at Northwestern State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Lumberjacks.
Site: Nacogdoches, Tex.

Text by Carl Dubois.

Passer McNair gains plaudits as Alcorn State 'Air' apparent

By CARL DUBOIS

Lake Charles American Press

Steve McNair could have played defensive back for almost any major-college team, but family ties to Alcorn State made him the school's "Air" apparent at quarterback.

McNair, who once intercepted 15 passes in a high school season, also was a top-notch quarterback who preferred throwing the long ball to chasing it down.

Now, after just two seasons at Alcorn State, he owns all but two school passing records. Among the marks shattered were some set by his brother, Fred (Air) McNair, from 1987-88.

Steve, known as "Air II," disproves the notion that a sequel can't top the original. And unless he turns pro after his junior season, McNair will have a chance to break plenty of national Division I-AA records, too.

McNair chose to play at Alcorn State because it was one of the few schools willing to give him a shot at quarterback. He was a blue-chip prospect at defensive back after tying Terrell Buckley's Mississippi high school record of 30 career interceptions.

The Braves liked what they saw of McNair at quarterback at Mount Olive High School and gave him clearance to launch "Air II." Their faith has been rewarded.

"He's an exciting quarterback," Grambling State Coach Eddie Robinson said. "A player of his caliber can generate tremendous exposure for this league."

McNair has produced staggering numbers in just two seasons. He has thrown for 6,436 yards and 53 touchdowns, completing 55 percent of his passes. Last year, he threw for 3,541 yards and 29 touchdowns, ran for 516 yards and 10 TDs and topped the nation's I-AA players in total offense with 405.7 yards per game.

Alcorn State, which compiled a 7-3 regular-season record in 1992, captured the Southwestern Athletic Conference title with an unbeaten record as McNair earned his second SWAC Offensive Player of the Year award.

The list of honors that McNair has won is almost as long as his statistical sheet, and Alcorn State sports publicist Gus Howard hopes to add to the tally by pushing McNair for the Heisman Trophy.

"We don't have the resources for a full-scale media blitz, but we're going to do what we can," Howard assured. "If he can just duplicate the '92 season, he'll make the job a whole lot easier."

The Heisman odds are against McNair. The highest a Division I-AA player has finished in the voting is third, which Holy Cross' Gordie Lockbaum achieved in 1987.

Whatever the Heisman hype, McNair will continue to do his thing. Comfortable staying in the pocket, he nonetheless likes to scramble and throw on the run. His brother, Tim, an Alcorn State wide receiver, says Steve's



Steve McNair: He and his Alcorn State teammates gird for the opportunity to redeem themselves in postseason play.

unpredictability is what makes him special.

"He likes to get outside the containment and make things happen," said Tim, who teamed up with Steve in 1989 to help Mount Olive win the Mississippi 1A state crown.

McNair's bid for the Heisman might be a long shot, but he and the Braves have other matters to tend to.

Alcorn State beat Grambling, 35-33, in the teams' 1992 opener, but the Tigers rebounded to win the national championship for predominantly black colleges. As SWAC champion, Alcorn State got first crack at a Heritage Bowl invitation—a postseason contest that determines the black schools' titlist—but the Braves turned it down to play in the I-AA playoffs. McNair threw for 386 yards but yielded five interceptions as Northeast Louisiana drilled Alcorn State, 78-27, in the first round.

The embarrassing loss forced Alcorn State to watch Grambling soak up the post-season glory, and it left the SWAC winless in I-AA playoff competition as well. "We still have some things to prove to some people," McNair said.

Alcorn State's battle cry for '93 is "The SWAC and Beyond." McNair says it means as much to him as the Heisman hubbub.

"I don't look at the individual aspect as much as I do the team," he said. "We deserved to be Number 1 at the end of the year, not Grambling. So we'll just have to go out and do it again this year."

That shouldn't pose too much of a problem. After all, "Air II" has plenty of experience with sequels. ■

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. JACKSON STATE
2. ALCORN STATE
3. GRAMBLING STATE
4. ALABAMA STATE
5. TEXAS SOUTHERN
6. SOUTHERN
7. MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
8. PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

ALL-SWAC TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
WR	ISIAH BLISS, Jackson State	Sr.
WR	MARCUS HINTON, Alcorn State	Soph.
TE	TRACY COOK, Alcorn State	Sr.
T	ROBERT GADDY, Alcorn State	Sr.
T	ROD HENDERSON, Grambling State	Sr.
C	JOE BURCH, Texas Southern	Sr.
G	DARIUS ALEXANDER, Texas Southern	Sr.
G	MICHAEL ELLIS, Alcorn State	Sr.
QB	STEVE MCNAIR, Alcorn State	Jr.
RB	HARRY BROWN, Alcorn State	Jr.
RB	ERIC GANT, Grambling State	Sr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
DL	ERIC ALEXANDER, Mississippi Valley State	Sr.
DL	PHEATHUR EDWARDS, Jackson State	Sr.
DL	D.J. HOLLIE, Jackson State	Sr.
LB	VINGI JOHNSON, Jackson State	Sr.
LB	MARLO PERRY, Jackson State	Sr.
LB	FERNANDO SMITH, Jackson State	Sr.
LB	JOHN THIERRY, Alcorn State	Sr.
DB	TERRY ARNOLD, Jackson State	Sr.
DB	LeCOREY HARVEST, Alabama State	Sr.
DB	SEAN WALLACE, Southern	Sr.
DB	ERIC WARD, Alcorn State	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Class
PK	GILAD LANDAU, Grambling State	Jr.
P	BRANNON SIMPSON, Grambling State	Jr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

Steve McNair, QB, Alcorn State



DEFENSE:

Marlo Perry, LB, Jackson State

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC TEAM CHARTS

ALABAMA STATE

Coach: Houston Markham (44-19-3, 6 years).
1992 record: 5-6. SWAC: 3-4/T4th.
Key players: Reggie Barlow, WR; Leon Bell, C; Jacques Cothren, K; Joe Dean, LB; Paul Etheridge, OT; John Feagin, QB; Latrod Garner, DB; LeCorey Harvest, DB; Erik Mothershed, P; Rico White, RB.

Strengths: The talents of Harvest are bountiful. White is one of the league's best runners. Punter Mothershed is poised for a breakthrough year.

Weaknesses: The defensive depth chart is dominated by underclassmen. The rushing defense must improve quickly, and the quarterback position is shaky.

Outlook: The young players could provide a spark, but they also are susceptible to errors. Consequently, the Hornets are a year away from contending.

Schedule: Southern (at Mobile, Ala.), Sept. 11; Alcorn State, Sept. 18; Troy State, Sept. 25; at Jackson State, Oct. 9; at Texas Southern, Oct. 16; at Prairie View A&M, Oct. 23; Alabama A&M (at Birmingham, Ala.), Oct. 30; Grambling State, Nov. 6; at Mississippi Valley State, Nov. 13; Johnson C. Smith (N.C.), Nov. 25.

Nickname: Hornets.

Site: Montgomery, Ala.

ALCORN STATE

Coach: Cardell Jones (14-6-1, 2 years).
1992 record: 7-4 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs).
SWAC: 7-0/1st.

Key players: Michael Banks, DB; Harry Brown, RB; Edward Buck, DB; Tracy Cook, TE; Michael Ellis, OG; Robert Gaddy, OT; George Graham, OL; Marcus Hinton, WR; Steve McNair, QB; John Thierry, LB; Patrick Varnado, LB; Eric Ward, DB.

Strengths: McNair may not win the Heisman, but he'll have the Braves in the SWAC title chase. An injury-free Brown will give the Braves more offensive options—as if they need them.

Weaknesses: Experience is a problem at receiver and on defense. Alcorn State will be capable of defending its title only if it can avoid serious injuries.

Outlook: If Alcorn State's defense is respectable, the Braves have a chance to win the league again and try for the SWAC's first-ever I-AA playoff win.

Schedule: Grambling State, Sept. 4; Texas Southern (at Jackson, Miss.), Sept. 11; at Alabama State, Sept. 18; Howard, Sept. 25; Sam Houston State, Oct. 2; Prairie View A&M, Oct. 16; at Southern, Oct. 23; Jacksonville (Ala.) State, Oct. 30; Mississippi Valley State, Nov. 6; at Troy State, Nov. 13; at Jackson State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Braves.

Site: Lorman, Miss.

GRAMBLING STATE

Coach: Eddie Robinson (381-136-15, 52 years).

1992 record: 10-2. SWAC: 6-1/2nd.

Key players: Norman Bradford, RB; Jeffrey Celestand, CB; Larry Dykes, RB; Ron Dyson, RB/WR; Remond Elder, RB; Eric Gant, RB; Tracy Greene, TE; Rod Henderson, OT; Gilad Landau, K; Kelvin Reddix, SS; Brannon Simpson, P; Eudean Toney, SS.

Strengths: The Tigers have two-time All-America Gant in the fold. Grambling State's special teams are among the best in I-AA. The secondary returns three starters who combined to pick off nine passes in '92.

Weaknesses: The offensive line must be rebuilt, a quarterback must be found and wide receivers are needed. All of the linebackers are new, and overall depth could be a problem.

Outlook: Grambling lost 14 players from the team that won the black colleges' national championship last year. However, coaching and some explosive running backs will keep the Tigers in the hunt.

Schedule: At Alcorn State, Sept. 7; Tennessee State (at Memphis, Tenn.), Sept. 18; Hampton, Va. (at East Rutherford, N.J.), Sept. 25; Prairie View A&M (at Dallas), Oct. 2; Mississippi Valley State, Oct. 9; Arkansas-Pine Bluff (at Shreveport, La.), Oct. 16; at Jackson State, Oct. 23; Texas Southern, Oct. 30; at Alabama State, Nov. 6; Florida A&M, Nov. 13; Southern (at New Orleans), Nov. 27.

Nickname: Tigers.

Site: Grambling, La.

JACKSON STATE

Coach: James Carson (7-4, 1 year).

1992 record: 7-4. SWAC: 4-3/3rd.



Eric Gant: Grambling State.

Key players: Terry Arnold, CB; Isiah Bliss, TE (will move to WR); Pheathur Edwards, DT; D.J. Hollie, NT; Vingi Johnson, LB; Ricky Jordan, QB; Javis Knott, CB; Antoine Moore, C; Ernest Pate, WR; Marlo Perry, LB; Terry Ross, OG; Fernando Smith, LB.

Strengths: Arnold and Perry lead a fine defense. The offense has enough returning skill-position players upon which to build. Bliss is outstanding.

Weaknesses: The top two running backs and a leading wide receiver must be replaced. Newcomers at offensive tackle have a big responsibility to protect Jordan, who will assume a greater role until steady running backs emerge.

Outlook: Carlson should be more comfortable in his second year, and the Tigers will respond with an inspired season. Jackson State should get over the top by winning the close games.

Schedule: Tennessee State (at Chicago), Sept. 11; at Florida A&M, Sept. 18; Mississippi Valley State, Sept. 25; South Carolina State (at Indianapolis), Oct. 2; Alabama State, Oct. 9; Southern, Oct. 16; Grambling State, Oct. 23; at Texas Southern, Nov. 6; at Prairie View A&M, Nov. 13; Alcorn State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Tigers.

Site: Jackson, Miss.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE

Coach: Larry Dorsey (16-14-1, 3 years).

1992 record: 4-5. SWAC: 2-5/7th.

Key players: Eric Alexander, DL; David Arrington, RB; Steve Booze, WR; Alphonzo Brown, LB; James Butler, OL; John Collins, OL; Victor Cullen, WR; Burnell DeDeaux, FS; Brandon Dominique, OL; Issac Green, C; Eric Johnson, DB; Jamarah Nevitt, DL; Cliff Robinson, QB; Felix Wicks, LB; Kelvin Williams, SS.

Strengths: Defensive linemen Alexander and Nevitt can dominate the line of scrimmage. The Delta Devils will have more depth and plan to throw the ball more.

Weaknesses: The secondary is one of the league's most inexperienced, and the linebackers are average. A quarterback must emerge.

Outlook: This team may peak in 1994 if '93 becomes a year of seasoning for the young players. Added depth will help, but the Delta Devils' SWAC schedule is tough, which means they won't likely contend.

Schedule: Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Sept. 4; at Lane (Tenn.), Sept. 11; at Jackson State, Sept. 25; Southern, Oct. 2; at Grambling State, Oct. 9; Alabama-Birmingham, Oct. 16; at Prairie View A&M, Oct. 30; at Alcorn State, Nov. 6; Alabama State (at Pontiac, Mich.), Nov. 13; Texas Southern, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Delta Devils.

Site: Itta Bena, Miss.

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

Coach: Ronald Beard (0-22, 2 years).

1992 record: 0-11. SWAC: 0-7/8th.

Key players: Samuel Barner, P; Augustus Belser, DL;

Arthur Booker, DB; Jerrald Crowder, LB; Calvin Ford, DB; Corey Fregia, DL; Kevin Garner, DL; Marshall Green, RB; Alaric Henderson, WR; Cleveland Jones, SS; Kenneth Lacy, RB; David McPherson, OL; Courtney Parham, DB; Alphonse Provo, LB; David Washington, OL.

Strengths: The Panthers' execution is improving. Last year, Prairie View was the league's least-penalized team, was second in turnover margin and a stunning fourth in pass defense.

Weaknesses: Recruiting without scholarships is a tough row to hoe, and Prairie View usually doesn't have a working depth chart until after registration each fall.

Outlook: The Panthers again will boast the league's worst offense and defense. Newcomers Jones and Booker will help in the secondary, but Prairie View is outmanned three-deep at nearly every position. Winning one game will be difficult.

Schedule: At Texas Southern, Sept. 4; at Langston (Okla.), Sept. 11; at Southern, Sept. 18; Grambling State, Oct. 2 (at Dallas); West Texas State, Oct. 9; at Alcorn State, Oct. 16; Alabama State, Oct. 23; Mississippi Valley State, Oct. 30; Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Nov. 6; Jackson State, Nov. 13; at Alabama-Birmingham, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Panthers.

Site: Prairie View, Tex.

SOUTHERN

Coach: Pete Richardson (first year).

1992 record: 5-6. SWAC: 3-4/T4th.

Key players: Malik Boyd, DB; Jimmy Conner, LB; Duane Fuller, K; Eric Randall, QB; Lindsey Scott, RB; Sean Wallace, DB.

Strengths: Thanks to Richardson, enthusiasm is up. SWAC Freshman of the Year Randall is a promising quarterback. Wallace could be the league's most dominant defender.

Weaknesses: A series of coaching changes have cost seniors a chance to develop into a cohesive group. Richardson must have patience and allow his players time to learn a new system.

Outlook: Richardson wanted to bring his wing-T offense from Winston-Salem (N.C.) State but has decided to run the I-formation. Richardson dropped several veterans down the depth chart to create competition in the spring. If it works, Southern is the best bet to be the league's sleeper.

Schedule: Northwestern State, Sept. 4; Alabama State (at Mobile, Ala.), Sept. 11; Prairie View A&M, Sept. 18; South Carolina State (at Atlanta), Sept. 25; at Mississippi Valley State, Oct. 2; at Texas Southern, Oct. 9; at Jackson State, Oct. 16; Alcorn State, Oct. 23; Nicholls State, Oct. 30; at Florida A&M, Nov. 6; Grambling State (at New Orleans), Nov. 27.

Nickname: Jaguars.

Site: Baton Rouge, La.

TEXAS SOUTHERN

Coach: Walter Highsmith (17-25-2, 4 years).

1992 record: 5-6. SWAC: 3-4/T4th.

Key players: Darius Alexander, OG; Joe Burch, C; Jason Hampton, RB; Chris Jordan, FB; Undrae Martin, LB; Greg Parks, OG; Donald Randle, LB; Joe Rogers, WR; Carnell White, RB; Keith Williams, DT.

Strengths: Offensive linemen Burch and Alexander form a solid nucleus for a rebuilding year. Running behind them will be several promising backs. Pass catcher Rogers could be outstanding.

Weaknesses: Seven starters on defense must be replaced, and the special teams need a major overhaul. A veteran Texas Southern club was among the league's worst in all defensive categories last year. Newcomers could continue that trend.

Outlook: Highsmith vows his new-look defense will surprise critics. Still, with the offense rebuilding in key areas, the defense isn't ready to carry the load in such an explosive conference.

Schedule: Prairie View A&M, Sept. 4; Alcorn State (at Jackson, Miss.), Sept. 11; at Nevada, Sept. 18; Central State, O. (at Columbus, O.), Sept. 25; Knoxville (Tenn.), Oct. 2; Southern, Oct. 9; Alabama State, Oct. 16; at Grambling State, Oct. 30; Jackson State, Nov. 6; at East Texas State, Nov. 13; at Mississippi Valley State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Tigers.

Site: Houston.

Text by Carl Dubois.

'Small' Spider QB snares disbelievers in his web

By ADRIAN WOJNAROWSKI

Waterbury Republican-American

Greg Lilly desperately wanted to play football on the NCAA Division I-AA level. In his view, Division II or Division III didn't quite measure up. So, four years ago, the young quarterback dispatched videotapes chronicling his talents to I-AA programs throughout the East.

Before too long, the tapes returned to his Chevy Chase, Md., home with polite—but disheartening—notes attached. There wasn't a coach willing to offer a scholarship to the 5-foot-11, 160-pound passer out of Gonzaga High School in Washington, D.C.

"I really didn't feel anger toward the schools," Lilly said, "but sometimes I'd open them up and just want to throw the tapes against the wall."

None of the letters questioned his ability, according to Hank Lilly, Greg's father and a Maryland quarterback in the early 1960s. "They wondered about his arm strength, his size," the elder Lilly said. "No one was willing to take a chance."

So, Greg did.

The kid shunned several Division III overtures upon receiving an invitation to walk on at Richmond. The Spiders had big, strong passers on hand, yet Lilly never wavered.

Six games into Lilly's redshirt freshman season, Richmond Coach Jim Marshall sent Lilly into battle—and the quarterback job has been his ever since. Now a senior, he's on the brink of smashing every passing record in school history. And he has long since been awarded a scholarship.

Lilly ranks second in three Richmond career statistics: passing yards (5,276), completions (379) and total offense (5,022 yards). Plus, a year ago he was selected the Yankee Conference's Offensive Player of the Year, throwing for 2,704 yards and 19 touchdowns and further proving his ability to succeed where few believed he could.

Piling up impressive individual numbers is nice, of course, but Lilly also has delivered where it really counts—in the victory column. Entering last season, the Spiders had lost 29 of their previous 33 games. But behind Lilly's pinpoint passing and leadership, Richmond rolled to five consecutive wins and a 7-4 record last year. With Lilly and his favorite target, Rod Boothes, both returning this fall, there's good reason to believe the Spiders will be Yankee Conference title contenders.

"Greg does as much with his head as he does his body," Marshall said. "He's the trigger around here. He has a way of rallying the players around him. It's in the way he can communicate, the way he can see the field. Certainly, he has surpassed anything that we thought he could be."

Lilly has attained success everywhere he has been. For as long as he has played football—including kids-league programs and high school ball—Lilly has been told he just couldn't cut it as a quarterback. He never listened. After all, the son of a high school



Motivation: Whenever someone told Richmond's Greg Lilly that he didn't have what it takes to play quarterback, he simply worked harder.

coach—never mind an old quarterback—just doesn't give in.

Perhaps Lilly couldn't control his size, but he could dangle a tire off a goal post, convince his little sister to fetch the balls and thereby work on his accuracy. He could play a three-man game within his family, with dad running pass routes and brother Matt, now a freshman for the Spiders, chasing him around the backfield.

And he could listen to the insights of Hank Lilly. The two would talk for hours about the subtleties of the quarterback position, about reading defenses, about throwing tight spirals, about inspiring teammates to drive downfield.

"Even in little league, I always knew the fundamentals—dropping back, throwing the ball correctly," Greg said. "My father always made sure. But it seemed like no matter what level I was, there was always someone saying I was too short, or my arm wasn't strong enough, or I wasn't quick enough. It had always been a source of frustration. But it made me work harder."

Said Hank Lilly: "They always told him he was too small, and somehow, he always ended up the starting quarterback. He just always did."

It made Greg dream big dreams, too. Lilly was still learning the game as a junior high player when another undersized quarterback, a fellow named Doug Flutie, was playing with aplomb at Boston College. He was everything a young Greg Lilly wanted to be—talented, daring and plucky.

So, the Lillys packed the family car in the fall of 1984 for weekend sojourns to watch Flutie do his thing. They shuffled off to Chestnut Hill, Mass.; Morgantown, W.Va., and other familiar Saturday datelines to see Greg's hero perform his wizardry.

"I still have the posters, the autographs, the videotapes (of Flutie)," said Greg, now a 180-pounder. "I'd watch him scramble, the way he'd spin out and avoid people. It was unbelievable. He always had such confidence, even when everyone told him he couldn't do it."

Sounds familiar. ■

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. DELAWARE
2. RICHMOND
3. WILLIAM & MARY
4. VILLANOVA
5. NEW HAMPSHIRE
6. JAMES MADISON
7. CONNECTICUT
8. NORTHEASTERN
9. MASSACHUSETTS
10. BOSTON UNIVERSITY
11. MAINE
12. RHODE ISLAND

ALL-YANKEE TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
WR	ROD BOOTHES, Richmond	Sr.
WR	JEREMY GOBEIL, Northeastern	Sr.
TE	PRICE WILLIAMS, Richmond	Sr.
T	MATT WILDES, Delaware	Sr.
T	SCOTT WENK, Richmond	Sr.
C	TONY TOMICH, William & Mary	Sr.
G	BILL DURKIN, Massachusetts	Sr.
G	TOM WALTERS, William & Mary	Sr.
QB	GREG LILLY, Richmond	Sr.
RB	ED LONG, Connecticut	Jr.
RB	ULY SCOTT, Richmond	Jr.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
DL	MATT MORRILL, Delaware	Sr.
DL	BRIAN CORCORAN, Massachusetts	Jr.
DL	MATT JOYCE, Richmond	Sr.
LB	MIKE BANDISH, Delaware	Sr.
LB	MARIO PERRY, Massachusetts	Sr.
LB	SCOTT ASSENCOA, Massachusetts	Sr.
LB	ANDY COBAUGH, Villanova	Jr.
DB	MARK SALISBURY, Northeastern	Jr.
DB	BOB JORDAN, New Hampshire	Sr.
DB	MAURICE GLENN, Richmond	Jr.
DB	MATT SMITH, Villanova	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

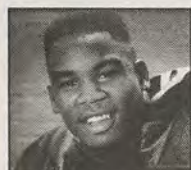
Pos.	Name, School	Class
PK	BILL HOFFMAN, Villanova	Sr.
P	TODD BARTON, Richmond	Jr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

Greg Lilly,
QB, Richmond



DEFENSE:

Mario Perry,
LB, Massachusetts

YANKEE TEAM CHARTS



Ed Long: Connecticut.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Coach: Dan Allen (12-21, 3 years).

1992 record: 3-8. Yankee: 2-6/8th.

Key players: Jason Andrade, WR; Zack Burwell, FB; Matt Demshar, OG; Marc Favci, SS; Paul Francisco, TE; Carnell Henderson, WR; John Hickey, LB; Don Hubbard, LB; Paul Lavdano, DL; Andre Maksimow, C; John May, DB; Greg Moore, QB; Mike Morello, K; Mike Pedone, DL; Pablo Rodriguez, DB; John Schaefer, LB.

Strengths: The Terriers have an array of receivers and backs with which to run their run-and-shoot offense. Andrade and Henderson could be one of the league's top receiving tandems. The linebackers and defensive backs are good, too.

Weaknesses: While both lines have solid starters, the bench appears shallow. No one can be certain, either, about the kicking game. Morello needs to regain the consistency he showed two years ago.

Outlook: This is an important season for the program. Allen has done an admirable job in his first three seasons as coach, but he needs his first winning record. It would be a surprise if he got it this year, however.

Schedule: Maine, Sept. 11; at Holy Cross, Sept. 18; Massachusetts, Sept. 25; Villanova, Oct. 2; at Northeastern, Oct. 9; at Richmond, Oct. 16; Rhode Island, Oct. 23; at New Hampshire, Oct. 30; Buffalo, Nov. 6; at Connecticut, Nov. 13; at James Madison, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Terriers.

Site: Boston.

CONNECTICUT

Coach: Tom Jackson (56-52-0, 11 years).

1992 record: 5-6. Yankee: 4-4/T5th.

Key players: Bruce Bourgoing, OLB; Jon Cohen, P; Raul Duckworth, OLB; Wilbur Gilliard, RB; Brian Gleason, NG; Sherrard Joseph, OG; Ed Long, RB; Mike McCarthy, DT; Scott Mitchell, CB; Monte Nowden, WR; Jim Reppi, ILB; Zeke Rodgers, QB; Mike Walker, WR; Pat Walsh, OT; Paul Zerkert, ILB.

Strengths: The Huskies possess elite backfield talent in Long and Gilliard, perhaps the two best underclassmen running backs in the Yankee Conference. Rodgers, who discarded his redshirt midway through his 1992 freshman year, salvaged Connecticut's season by leading the Huskies to a few late-season victories.

Weaknesses: Although the defense made strides under a new coordinator, UConn still allowed too many points. The line and the secondary both lost several players, which might not be all bad. The Huskies appear thinnest on the defensive line.

Outlook: There is no reason Connecticut should not be one of the most explosive offensive teams in the conference. Although a porous defense could ruin everything, a winning season seems attainable. Jackson's job could well depend on it.

Schedule: At Furman, Sept. 4; New Hampshire, Sept. 11; James Madison, Sept. 18; at Yale, Sept. 25; Towson State, Oct. 2; at Villanova, Oct. 9; Massachusetts, Oct. 16; at Maine, Oct. 23; at Richmond, Oct. 30; at Rhode Island, Nov. 6; Boston University, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Huskies.

Site: Storrs, Conn.

DELAWARE

Coach: Harold R. (Tubby) Raymond (223-88-2, 27 years).

1992 record: 11-3 (including 2-1 in I-AA playoffs). Yankee: 7-1/1st.

Key players: Scott Acker, CB; Mike Bandish, LB; Domenic Botto, DE; Daryl Brown, FB; Dan Cooper, SE; Dale Fry, QB; Leo Hamlett, QB; Geoff Hannan, OG; Chris Johnson, LB; Lanue Johnson, HB; Steve Leo, K; Matt Morrill, DE; Pat Mulhern, LB; Greg Peden, C; Shannon Trostle, OG; Matt Wildes, OT.

Strengths: No team in this conference has a better defensive front. Morrill, a first-team All-America selection, is the top player on a superior defense. Seven starters returns on an offense that averaged 35.9 points and 420.9 yards a game. Brown could be the Blue Hens' next All-America, and Leo has pro potential.

Weaknesses: You'd be reaching to find any. Although Raymond has yet to decide on a starting quarterback, Fry and Hamlett both seem capable. Perhaps the secondary, where just one starter returns, is Delaware's most formidable challenge.

Outlook: Raymond has built a program capable of competing for the national championship, and the Blue Hens appear to have everything neatly aligned for a title run. It should surprise no one if they maneuver through the conference without a loss.

Schedule: Lehigh, Sept. 4; William & Mary, Sept. 11; at Rhode Island, Sept. 18; West Chester (Pa.), Sept. 25; at James Madison, Oct. 9; Villanova, Oct. 16; at Massachusetts, Oct. 23; Maine, Oct. 30; Towson State, Nov. 6; Richmond, Nov. 13; at Northeastern, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Blue Hens.

Site: Newark, Del.

JAMES MADISON

Coach: Rip Scherer (13-11, 2 years).

1992 record: 4-7 as an independent.

Key players: Steve Agee, FB; John Allen, WR; Clint Dunn, LB; Dion Fox, DE; Scott Frazier, P; Kelvin Jeter, TB; Billy Johnson, TB; David McLeod, WR; Brad Morris, C; Kris Orendorff, OT; David Quattlebaum, DB; Dwight Robinson, CB; Robert Smart, DB; Joe Sparksman, FB; Tyrone Washington, DT; Trey Weis, PK; Julius Williams, DE.

Strengths: The secondary of Robinson, Smart and Quattlebaum remains one of the Dukes' few constants. Those players will be helped by solid linemen Washington and Fox.

Weaknesses: This is a very inexperienced team. Last season's powerful offense will include many new faces. None of them, however, can truly replace quarterback Eriq Williams, the first player in I-AA history to throw for 5,000 yards and run for 2,500.

Outlook: The Dukes will be one of the league's youngest teams. There are fewer than 10 seniors on scholarship, and as few as three of them will start. Still, Scherer has recruited well and has built a quality program.

Schedule: Lock Haven (Pa.), Sept. 4; Richmond, Sept. 11; at Connecticut, Sept. 18; Jacksonville State, Sept. 25; at Massachusetts, Oct. 2; Delaware, Oct. 9; New Hampshire, Oct. 16; at William & Mary, Oct. 30; at Northeastern, Nov. 6; at Villanova, Nov. 13; Boston University, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Dukes.

Site: Harrisonburg, Va.

MAINE

Coach: Jack Cosgrove (first year as coach).

1992 record: 6-5. Yankee: 4-4/T5th.

Key players: Steve Cates, FL; Emilio Colon, QB; Brian Gaine, TE; Fred Guions, CB; Fred Harner, DE; Greg Mikel, FS; Jamal Murphy, LB; Todd Park, DT; John Pourby, OT; Jerrod Theberge, P; Jed Wehrman, DT.

Strengths: Colon has emerged as one of the league's most consistent quarterbacks. His favorite target in '93 might be Gaine, Maine's best freshman a year ago. The defensive line could be one of the league's best against the run.

Weaknesses: Protecting Colon might become difficult. The offensive line lost several key people through graduation and the coaching staff has been forced to shuffle players to fill holes. Maine has yet to find a dependable place-kicker.

Continued

YANKEE TEAM CHARTS

Outlook: Cosgrove, the offensive coordinator the last four years, takes over after Kirk Ferentz left for the NFL. Although Maine is coming off its first winning season since it won the league in 1989, there doesn't seem to be enough talent or depth to make Cosgrove's first year a successful one.

Schedule: At Buffalo, Sept. 4; at Boston University, Sept. 11; Massachusetts, Sept. 18; at New Hampshire, Sept. 25; Richmond, Oct. 9; at Rhode Island, Oct. 16; Connecticut, Oct. 23; at Delaware, Oct. 30; William & Mary, Nov. 6; Northeastern, Nov. 13; Hofstra, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Black Bears.

Site: Orono, Me.

MASSACHUSETTS

Coach: Mike Hodges (7-3, 1 year).

1992 record: 7-3. Yankee: 5-3/T3rd.

Key players: Ben Albert, DL; Scott Assensoa, OLB; Brian Corcoran, DL; Steve Dembowski, TE; Bill Durkin, OG; Mike George, FB; Phil Hallard, OG; Rene Ingoglia, TB; John Johnson, TB; Andy LeBlanc, C; Andrew McNeilly, QB; Mario Perry, OLB; Matt Rajotte, FS; Matt Read, SE; Tony Williams, CB.

Strengths: Perry, who had 15 sacks last season, is the best linebacker in this league and one of the best in Division I-AA. The offensive line should provide plenty of holes for a deep and talented cast of running backs. Tailbacks Johnson and Ingoglia are both former Yankee Conference rookies of the year.

Weaknesses: Trouble looms in the secondary after the departure of All-America cornerback Don Caparotti. McNeilly has few wide receivers to throw to.

Outlook: The temporary loss of scholarships two years ago should start to affect the Minutemen's depth this season. The running game must be the catalyst; if it isn't, Massachusetts could be in for a long, difficult season.

Schedule: Holy Cross, Sept. 11; at Maine, Sept. 18; at Boston University, Sept. 25; James Madison, Oct. 2; Rhode Island, Oct. 9; at Connecticut, Oct. 16; Delaware, Oct. 23; at Northeastern, Oct. 30; Richmond, Nov. 6; William & Mary, Nov. 13; New Hampshire, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Minutemen.

Site: Amherst, Mass.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Coach: Bill Bowes (136-78-5, 21 years).

1992 record: 5-5-1. Yankee: 3-5/7th.

Key players: Warren Armes, LB; Mike Cassano, DB; Jim Concannon, DB; Mike Cranney, WR; Sean Finneran, NG; Joe Fleming, DT; Mike Foley, TE; David Gamble, WR; Lance Hjelte, K; Bob Jordan, DB; Lee McClinton, FB; Matt Mezquita, HB; Avrom Smith, TB; Jim Stayer, QB; Steve Wagoner, DT.

Strengths: The Wildcats could have one of the best defenses in the East. Nine starters return, and defensive backs Jordan and Concannon are two of the league's finest. Stayer is a solid quarterback.

Weaknesses: The running game must compensate for the loss of all-purpose back Barry Bourassa. The Wildcats won't have many seniors in the lineup, so they'll have to mature quickly.

Outlook: After struggling in '92, New Hampshire should find itself competing with the conference's best teams in '93. Bowes has perhaps the league's best young team, and the Wildcats could be a year away from making noise on the national scene.

Schedule: At William & Mary, Sept. 4; at Connecticut, Sept. 11; Richmond, Sept. 18; Maine, Sept. 25; at Dartmouth, Oct. 9; at James Madison, Oct. 16; Northeastern, Oct. 23; Boston University, Oct. 30; at Villanova, Nov. 6; Rhode Island, Nov. 13; at Massachusetts, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Wildcats.

Site: Durham, N.H.

NORTHEASTERN

Coach: Barry Gallup (9-12-1, 2 years).

1992 record: 5-5-1 as an independent.

Key players: David Atwood, LB; Bill Eacrett, FB; Derrick Foster, DB; Jeremy Gobeil, WR; Mike Green, TB; Jeff Laing, LB; Garvey McIntosh, QB; Miles McLean, DE; Clarzell Pearl, QB; Austin Saladin, OT; Mark Salisbury, SS; Jason Seapker, FS; John Smith, DT; Reggie Thornton, LB; Kevin Williams, TB.



Scott Assensoa: Massachusetts.

Strengths: Talented tailback Williams is the focal point of the Huskies' run-and-shoot offense, which could thrive should Pearl, a Boston College transfer, fulfill his promise at quarterback. Salisbury is a hard-hitting safety who's always around the ball. This team has speed.

Weaknesses: Although the defensive line has speed, it could get overpowered by stronger opponents.

Outlook: Gallup, who has done a terrific job of resurrecting this program, could have used one more recruiting class before entering the Yankee Conference. Still, if Pearl develops, this team could be a genuine sleeper.

Schedule: At Villanova, Sept. 11; at Boise State, Sept. 18; at Rhode Island, Sept. 25; at Richmond, Oct. 2; Boston University, Oct. 9; William & Mary, Oct. 16; at New Hampshire, Oct. 23; Massachusetts, Oct. 30; James Madison, Nov. 6; at Maine, Nov. 13; Delaware, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Huskies.

Site: Boston.

RHODE ISLAND

Coach: Floyd Keith (first year; 23-17-2 overall, 4 years).

1992 record: 1-10. Yankee: 0-8/9th.

Key players: Joe Bean, C; Art D'Ercole, WR; Shundell Hicks, WR; Gregg Hoffman, FS; Chris Keneally, OT; Dave Kolman, OG; Brian Merritt, CB; Kevin Quinn, FB; Troy Rothman, CB; Kevin Shirley, DE; Todd Short, OT; Dave Slattery, LB; Tony Squitieri, QB; Donlad Talley, CB; Ralph Zednik, TE.

Strengths: Keith is well-regarded after spending the last nine years as an assistant at Indiana. Squitieri was the third-rated passer in the conference last year despite missing four games due to injury. Hoffman and Merritt are considered first-rate players in this league.

Weaknesses: There are plenty. The Rams allowed 30.7 points per game last season, a big reason longtime coach Bob Griffin is now an ex-coach.

Outlook: This program is teetering on the brink. Keith is trying to re-establish the Rams' recruiting base, but for his team to steal even one or two victories won't be easy.

Schedule: At Boise State, Sept. 4; Hofstra, Sept. 11; Delaware, Sept. 18; Northeastern, Sept. 25; at Brown, Oct. 2; at Massachusetts, Oct. 9; Maine, Oct. 16; at Boston University, Oct. 23; at Villanova, Oct. 30; Connecticut, Nov. 6; at New Hampshire, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Rams.

Site: Kingston, R.I.

RICHMOND

Coach: Jim Marshall (11-33, 4 years).

1992 record: 7-4. Yankee: 5-3/T3rd.

Key players: Todd Barton, P; Rod Boothes, WR; Rodney Bowns, WR; Scott Burton, DB; Jeff Edmiston, LB; Maurice Glenn, FS; Matt Joyce, DT; Antoine Lee, RB; Greg Lilly, QB; Chris Owens, DB; Jason Rydalc, WR; Uly Scott, RB; Jon Strashensky, RB; Scott Wenk, OT; Price Williams, TE.

Strengths: The offense starts with quarterback Lilly, one of the most entertaining players in the con-

ference. Boothes, the best receiver in Division I-AA, will catch a lot of passes. Everyone returns in the secondary, led by the talented Glenn. The defensive backs intercept almost anything thrown their way. Barton is the league's top punter.

Weaknesses: The heart of the 1992 defense—All-America linebacker Eric Johnson—is gone, leaving a big hole to be filled. The offensive line has potential, but there will be several first-time starters. It could take awhile for the offense to gel.

Outlook: Marshall has turned a struggling program into one of the best in the East, and his '93 team looms as one of the best in the Yankee Conference.

Schedule: Virginia Military Institute, Sept. 4; at James Madison, Sept. 11; at New Hampshire, Sept. 18; Villanova, Sept. 25; Northeastern, Oct. 2; at Maine, Oct. 9; Boston University, Oct. 16; Connecticut, Oct. 30; at Massachusetts, Nov. 6; at Delaware, Nov. 13; at William & Mary, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Spiders.

Site: Richmond, Va.

VILLANOVA

Coach: Andy Talley (57-24-1, 8 years; 85-42-2 overall, 13 years).

1992 record: 9-3 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs). Yankee: 6-2/2nd.

Key players: Barry Alvis, FS; Andy Cabaugh, LB; Pat Friend, WR; Remo Guarneri, DT; Harold Hart, WR; Bill Hoffman, P/K; Eric Hunt, RB; Bill Lacey, LT; Devian Logan, FS; Kevin Mosley, RB; Brad Parpan, QB; Jose Ramirez, C; Richard Ras, OT; Delmon Robertson, LB; Matt Smith, SS; Vernon Smith, TB.

Strengths: The Wildcats are solid in the backfield with Mosley, Hunt and Vernon Smith. Talley thinks his wideouts are the best in the league. Hoffman provides stability to the kicking game. Parpan, a senior who is finally getting his chance to start, could emerge as one of league's best passers.

Weaknesses: Seven starters were lost from one of the nation's best I-AA defenses. Villanova could be vulnerable against the run.

Outlook: Talley has tried to downplay expectations by labeling the Wildcats a "second-division" team. No chance. Granted, it's been a few years since Villanova has played so many young players, but there is talent galore here.

Schedule: Northeastern, Sept. 10; Fordham, Sept. 18; at Richmond, Sept. 25; at Boston University, Oct. 2; Connecticut, Oct. 9; at Delaware, Oct. 16; at William & Mary, Oct. 23; Rhode Island, Oct. 30; New Hampshire, Nov. 6; James Madison, Nov. 13; at Liberty, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Wildcats.

Site: Villanova, Pa.

WILLIAM & MARY

Coach: Jimmie Laycock (81-64-2, 13 years).

1992 record: 9-2 as an independent.

Key players: Chris Dawson, K; Derek Fitzgerald, TB; Melvin Griffin, DE; Paul Horne, OT; Troy Keen, TB; Shawn Knight, QB; Eric Lambert, LB; Corey Ludwig, WR; Jason Miller, LB; Erik Olson, TE; Greg Parker, FB; Marc Richards, CB; Craig Staub, DT; Tony Tomich, C; Mike Tomlin, WR; Tom Walters, OG.

Strengths: Led by All-America candidate Walters, the Tribe has one of the league's best offensive lines. It should open plenty of holes for the talented Fitzgerald. Quarterback Knight is just good enough to balance the run with the pass. Dawson made 10 of 14 field-goal attempts.

Weaknesses: The defensive secondary lost three solid starters, and three seniors have to step up. A lot of young, untested players will man the defensive line.

Outlook: William & Mary will be hard-pressed to finish 9-2 again. Even so, Laycock moves into the Yankee Conference with one of the league's best teams. His Tribe is talented enough to challenge Delaware and Richmond for the conference crown.

Schedule: New Hampshire, Sept. 4; at Delaware, Sept. 11; at Tulane, Sept. 18; Harvard, Sept. 25; Virginia Military Institute (at Norfolk, Va.), Oct. 2; at Northeastern, Oct. 16; Villanova, Oct. 23; James Madison, Oct. 30; at Maine, Nov. 6; at Massachusetts, Nov. 13; Richmond, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Tribe.

Site: Williamsburg, Va.

Text by Adrian Wojnarowski.

Towson State's playoff hopes begin and end with Tony Vinson

By PAUL McMULLEN

The Baltimore Sun

Towson State's dream of becoming the first program ever to reach the NCAA playoffs at three different levels begins and ends with Tony Vinson.

But a de-emphasis of the football program that began in 1991 and will be completed by 1995 means that time is running out on the Tigers' quixotic quest. However, Vinson's presence makes Towson State's 1993 playoff goal realistic.

Vinson, along with first-year Coach Gordy Combs, helped revive the Tigers last fall when he rushed for a school-record 1,042 yards in a little more than seven games before tearing the medial collateral ligament in his right knee. A subsequent complication with the injury required minor surgery, forcing Vinson to miss spring practice. But the 6-foot-2, 221-pound tailback has completely recovered and is among the preseason favorites to win the Walter Payton Award, given annually to the top player in NCAA Division I-AA.

"Tony's the total package," Combs said. "He has the size to run inside and the speed to run outside. He has the opportunity to play on Sundays next year."

Before thinking about the National Football League, Vinson wants to lead Towson State into the I-AA playoffs for the first time ever, which would complete a process of college growth for the senior whose career got off to a false start at Purdue.

Vinson wasn't exactly a football rookie when he arrived in West Lafayette, Ind., in 1989, but he wasn't a full-time running back until his senior year of high school in Virginia. In fact, the speedy Vinson was better known for his exploits on the track than on the gridiron. Still, the Boilermakers took a chance on his raw ability.

As a true-freshman starter for the Boilermakers, Vinson gained 92 yards on 39 carries and caught 30 passes for 327 yards. But he wasn't happy.

"I was the Number 1 running back at a Big Ten school," Vinson recalled, "but I was only getting six or seven carries a game. I was born and raised in the East, and my parents were making 12-hour drives to see me play."

As a sophomore in 1990 at Purdue, which ran the run-and-shoot offense that season, Vinson led the team with 198 rushing yards on 49 carries while also catching 22 passes for 194 yards. But following the '90 campaign, Purdue made a coaching change, and Vinson was ready for a change.

Vinson ended up at Towson State because he was fond of a Tiger assistant coach who had recruited him out of high school, he wanted to be near his parents (who had relocated to Maryland from Virginia) and he liked Towson State's business school. For once in recent years, things went right for the Tigers, whose football fortunes have



Grand entrance: After sitting out the '91 season as a transfer from Purdue, Towson State's Tony Vinson rushed for a school-record 1,042 yards last year.

been mixed the past decade.

Towson State reached the Division III championship game in 1976, where it lost to St. John's (Minn.). But the Tigers did win the Lambert/Meadowlands Award, which is given to the top Division II team in the East, in 1983, '84 and '86.

But Towson State, which is located in the northern suburbs of Baltimore, stumbled after moving up to I-AA in 1987. Even with David Meggett, who currently plays for the New York Giants, in their backfield in 1987 and '88, the Tigers couldn't post a better-than-500 record. And Phil Albert, tired of losing records and hassles from the administration, resigned as coach after a 1-10 1991 season.

Combs didn't find the cupboard bare after taking over for Albert in '92. Vinson was eligible after sitting out the 1991 season as a transfer, and he was ready to explode. He twice rushed for more than 250 yards last season, burning Hofstra for 256 yards and James Madison for a school-record 261 yards. But at Indiana (Pa.), Vinson's season ended with a knee injury. Still, the Tigers managed to finish with a surprising 5-5 record.

"The fact that I was coming in from Purdue had people keying on me at the start of last season," Vinson said. "I began the year by trying to break a long run on every play. Once I settled down and stopped trying so hard to make something happen, that's when the yards came."

This year, Vinson is the top player among a group of Tiger juniors and seniors who might make up the best collection of upperclassmen ever assembled at Towson State. In fact, this group may be good enough to make the playoffs. ■

TSN PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. YOUNGSTOWN STATE
2. TROY STATE
3. SAMFORD
4. LIBERTY
5. CENTRAL FLORIDA
6. TOWSON STATE
7. WESTERN KENTUCKY
8. ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM
9. WAGNER
10. ST. MARY'S
11. DAVIDSON
12. SOUTHERN UTAH STATE
13. ST. FRANCIS
14. MARIST
15. DUQUESNE
16. SACRAMENTO STATE
17. CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE
18. BUFFALO
19. HOFSTRA
20. CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
21. CENT. CONNECTICUT STATE

ALL-INDEPENDENTS TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
WR	DAVID RHODES, Central Florida	Jr.
WR	JAMES MCKNIGHT, Liberty	Sr.
TE	DWAYNE CARSWELL, Liberty	Sr.
T	ALLEN RAY, Troy State	Sr.
T	VINCE NOBLITT, Samford	Sr.
C	MIKE GRUTTADAURIA, Central Florida	Jr.
G	DREW GERBER, Youngstown State	Sr.
G	BUSTER MILLS, Central Florida	Sr.
QB	KELVIN SIMMONS, Troy State	Sr.
RB	TAMRON SMITH, Youngstown State	Sr.
RB	GEROD DAVIS, Central Florida	Soph.

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School	Class
DL	KENNY JONES, Samford	Sr.
DL	JOSH EVANS, Alabama-Birmingham	Jr.
DL	ANTWOINE CLARK, Troy State	Sr.
LB	JEFF POWERS, Youngstown State	Sr.
LB	DION KRAUSE, Liberty	Sr.
LB	JARED HUNSAKER, Southern Utah State	Sr.
LB	IVY CALVIN, Cal State Northridge	Sr.
DB	MARCUS DURGIN, Samford	Sr.
DB	REGGIE BROWN, Youngstown State	Jr.
DB	MICHAEL GRAZIANI, St. Francis (Pa.)	Sr.
DB	CED BROOKS, Troy State	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School	Class
PK	JEFF WILKINS, Youngstown State	Sr.
P	MATT GORDON, Southern Utah State	Sr.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

OFFENSE:

Tamron Smith, RB, Youngstown State

DEFENSE:

Antwoine Clark, DT, Troy State

DIVISION I-AA

INDEPENDENTS

DIVISION I-AA

INDEPENDENTS TEAM CHARTS

ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM

Coach: Jim Hilyer (12-6-2, 2 years).

1992 record: 7-3 in Division III.

Key players: Don Blackmon, CB; Jamie Edwards, OT; Josh Evans, DT; Rodney Foster, DE; Pat Green, RB; Jackie Hurst, LB; Derrick Ingram, WR; Drew Lofstad, DB; Robert Porter, FB; Alan Spooner, LB; John Whitcomb, QB; Wayne White, LB.

Strengths: The Blazers' pass-happy offense showcases the strong-armed Whitcomb at quarterback. Green, a 1,000-yard rusher as a freshman two years ago, is the top running threat. The defense is strong and talented with Evans, White, Foster and Lofstad.

Weaknesses: Whitcomb and Green had better be good—they have little offensive help.

Outlook: UAB, whose football program is just three years old, will find the jump to Division I-AA challenging, but one it can handle.

Schedule: Troy State, Sept. 6; Morehead State, Sept. 13; at Western Kentucky, Sept. 25; Miles (Ala.), Oct. 2; Lambuth (Tenn.), Oct. 9; at Mississippi Valley State, Oct. 16; at Charleston Southern, Oct. 23; at Wofford, Oct. 30; at Butler, Nov. 6; Dayton, Nov. 13; Prairie View A&M, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Blazers.

Site: Birmingham, Ala.

BUFFALO

Coach: Jim Ward (4-6, 1 year).

1992 record: 4-6 in Division III.

Key players: Brad Bess, RB/LB; Jason Galley, DL; Robert Harris, DB; Rusty Knapp, WR; Todd Schaffer, DL; Anthony Scott, RB/QB/DB; Cliff Scott, QB; Doc Smith, WR; Rich Walker, DE; Matt Werder, LB.

Strengths: Cliff Scott is the catalyst for the Bulls' dangerous freeze-option offense. Knapp and Smith are outstanding receivers. Both lines are sturdy, especially on the defensive side of the ball.

Weaknesses: The running game is suspect, meaning newcomers Anthony Scott and Bess have to produce immediately. The secondary may be a problem.

Outlook: With eight I-AA foes on the schedule, Buffalo will find out how good it is—or isn't.

Schedule: Maine, Sept. 4; New Haven, Sept. 11; Lafayette, Sept. 18; Edinboro, Sept. 25; at Hofstra, Oct. 1; at Fordham, Oct. 9; Buffalo State, Oct. 16; Towson State, Oct. 23; at Youngstown State, Oct. 30; at Boston University, Nov. 6; at Central Florida, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Bulls.

Site: Buffalo, N.Y.

CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE

Coach: Bob Burt (42-33, 7 years; 48-37 overall, 8 years).

1992 record: 5-5 in Division III.

Key players: Jose Aguilar, LB; Ivy Calvin, LB; Angel Chavez, LB; Saadiah Green, WR; Ralph Henderson, CB; Vincent Johnson, CB; Victor Myles, DL/DE; Duc Ngo, WR; Joseph Ojomoh, LB; Victor Prince, WR; Albert Razo, P; Charlie Williams, OL.

Strengths: With seven starters, including all the linebackers, returning, the Matadors will win with defense. Green and Ngo are experienced receivers.

Weaknesses: The defense may return seven starters, but the offense loses seven. Replacements must be found at quarterback, tailback and fullback.

Outlook: Burt has had just one losing season at Cal State Northridge. But with a tough schedule in 1993, even a .500 finish might require a minor miracle.

Schedule: At San Diego State, Sept. 4; at Weber State, Sept. 11; at Northern Arizona, Sept. 18; Sonoma State, Sept. 25; at UNLV, Oct. 9; Sacramento State, Oct. 16; at UC Davis, Oct. 23; Chico State, Oct. 30; at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, Nov. 6; Southern Utah State, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Matadors.

Site: Northridge, Calif.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE

Coach: Sal Cintorino (1-8, 1 year).

1992 record: 1-8 in Division III.

Key players: Darian Coleman, S; Anthony English, FB; Mike Gannon, DT; Patrick Graham, OG; Jeff McLeod, HB; Nelson Mingachos, K; Matt Pericolosi, RB; Jon Root, SE; Chuck Sgarlata, NG; Jarel Shelton, HB.

Strengths: Seniors Pericolosi and McLeod supply a much-needed 1-2 backfield punch. Gannon and Sgarlata head a promising defensive line. There is

decent depth at wide receiver.

Weaknesses: The linebackers are unproven, the offensive line is young and the punting is lacking.

Outlook: Things can't get much worse for this non-scholarship program.

Schedule: At Towson State, Sept. 11; at Iona, Sept. 18; at Wagner, Sept. 25; at St. Francis (Pa.), Oct. 2; Marist, Oct. 9; Springfield College, Oct. 16; C.W. Post (N.Y.), Oct. 23; at Southern Connecticut State, Oct. 30; St. Peter's, Nov. 6; Duquesne, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Blue Devils.

Site: New Britain, Conn.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Coach: Gene McDowell (54-37, 8 years).

1992 record: 6-4.

Key players: Robert Alexander, LB; Gerod Davis, TB; Willie English, TB; Mike Gruttadauria, C; Darin Hinshaw, QB; Greg Jefferson, DL; Buster Mills, OG; David Rhodes, WR; Steve Wright, SS.

Strengths: A stable of talented tailbacks includes Davis and English. Hinshaw is a sharp, crisp passer. Rhodes is a sure-handed receiver. The secondary returns intact and the defensive line is formidable.

Weaknesses: Standout place-kicker Franco Grilla is gone. Two starting linebackers have to be replaced.

Outlook: The Knights have the potential to advance to the Division I-AA playoffs if their offense clicks.

Schedule: Valdosta State, Sept. 11; at East Carolina, Sept. 18; McNeese State, Sept. 25; Yale, Oct. 2; Samford, Oct. 9; Western Illinois, Oct. 16; at Bethune-Cookman, Oct. 23; at Troy State, Oct. 30; Liberty, Nov. 6; Buffalo, Nov. 13; at Louisiana Tech, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Knights.

Site: Orlando, Fla.

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN

Coach: David Dowd (5-13, 2 years).

1992 record: 2-7 in Division III.

Key players: David Allen, OL; Bill Barteld, NG; Jon Belk, LB; Wallace Campbell, DE; Bill Collins, WR; D'Angelo Dereef, RB; Dennis Hamilton, DL; Rufus Hough, DB; Jody Jenerette, OL; Brad Johnson, QB; Matt Simms, TE; Lemonte Witherspoon, DB.

Strengths: The defensive line has all four starters back. The offense has some talented people, especially the fleet-footed Dereef.

Weaknesses: The secondary lacks experience and depth. The receiving corps, sans freshman Collins, doesn't have much speed or athleticism.

Outlook: Since the Bucs' fate rests largely with newcomers and young players, another 2-7 season seems inevitable.

Schedule: At Morgan State, Sept. 4; Presbyterian (S.C.), Sept. 11; at South Carolina State, Sept. 19; at Towson State, Sept. 25; at Troy State, Oct. 2; at Newberry (S.C.), Oct. 9; Lees-McRae (N.C.), Oct. 16; Alabama-Birmingham, Oct. 23; at Liberty, Oct. 30; at Newport News, Nov. 6; Wofford, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Buccaneers.

Site: Charleston, S.C.

DAVIDSON

Coach: Dave Fagg (22-45, 7 years).

1992 record: 5-5 in Division III.

Key players: Mills Atrial, DL; Ike Bailey, WR; Bruce Bannister, FB; Jack Barry, OT; Billy Evans, DE; Frank Houghton, SS; Richard Howell, QB; Rob King, OT; Chris Leak, LB; Alden Smith, DE.

Strengths: The Wildcats have 19 returning starters, including defensive stalwarts Smith, Atrial and Leak. Four-year starter Howell directs the offense, and Bannister leads a proficient running game.

Weaknesses: Depth is minimal everywhere, and Davidson must score more points than it did in 1992.

Outlook: The Wildcats hope the momentum of winning four of their final five games carries over into their first season in Division I-AA.

Schedule: At University of the South (Tenn.), Sept. 11; Rhodes (Tenn.), Sept. 18; at Emory & Henry (Va.), Sept. 25; at Guilford (N.C.), Oct. 2; at Washington & Lee (Va.), Oct. 9; Methodist (N.C.), Oct. 16; Randolph-Macon (Va.), Oct. 23; Hampden-Sydney (Va.), Oct. 30; at Centre (Ky.), Nov. 6; Bridgewater (Va.), Nov. 13.

Nickname: Wildcats.

Site: Davidson, N.C.

DUQUESNE

Coach: Greg Gattuso (first year as coach).

1992 record: 5-4 in Division III.

Key players: Damon Barry, DB; Kris Bergman, K; Tim Gribble, FB; Mike Haines, TB; Mauro Monz, DB; Joe Neckerman, LB; Steve Schweizer, DT; Kenny Smith, LB; Brian Staines, QB; Joe Wojciechowski, LB.

Strengths: The defense, although undersized, is quick and aggressive and allowed just 17.6 points per game in 1992. Haines is an invaluable tailback.

Weaknesses: Just three starters return on offense, and Haines can't carry the entire load. Staines must progress after playing sparingly last year.

Outlook: The program has come a long way at Duquesne—from a club sport to Division III to Division I-AA. Gattuso is its first full-time head coach.

Schedule: Canisius, Sept. 11; Bethany (W.Va.), Sept. 18; at Thiel (Pa.), Sept. 25; at Gannon (Pa.), Oct. 2; Wagner, Oct. 9; at Marist, Oct. 16; Mercyhurst (Pa.), Oct. 23; St. John's, Oct. 30; at St. Francis (Pa.), Nov. 6; at Central Connecticut State, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Dukes.

Site: Pittsburgh.

HOFSTRA

Coach: Joe Gardi (24-9, 3 years).

1992 record: 4-6 in Division III.

Key players: Fritz Avin, DE; Jeff Becchetti, RB; George Beisel, QB; Wayne Chrebet, WR; Ken Colon, WR; Herve Damas, LB; Dave Fiore, C; Lee Harris, DB; Peter Scheibe, DB; Michael Wright, WR.

Strengths: The Flying Dutchmen have a veteran secondary led by Harris and Scheibe. Avin leads a defensive line that returns three starters. Beisel has experience running Hofstra's run-and-shoot offense.

Weaknesses: The offense lacks one important ingredient—depth at wide receiver. The offensive line has some experience but is loaded with youngsters.

Outlook: The Dutchmen enter their first I-AA season with a new, \$4 million fieldhouse, a television contract with Sportschannel, an upgraded schedule and hope. Now, all they need is more talent.

Schedule: Butler, Sept. 4; at Rhode Island, Sept. 11; at Lehigh, Sept. 18; Illinois State, Sept. 25; Buffalo, Oct. 2; Bucknell, Oct. 9; at Lafayette, Oct. 16; Towson State, Oct. 30; at Fordham, Nov. 13; at Maine, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Flying Dutchmen.

Site: Hempstead, N.Y.

LIBERTY

Coach: Sam Rutigliano (25-18, 4 years).

1992 record: 7-4.

Key players: Dwayne Carswell, TE; Adrian Cherry, RB; Matt Council, RB; Maurice Jones, WR; Dion Krause, LB; Shelton Lewis, DB; David Long, LB; James McKnight, WR; Sam Patton, LB; Scott Thomas, RB.

Strengths: The offensive backfield is superb. Four of the top five offensive linemen are back. Speedy wideouts McKnight and Jones each had more than 700 yards in receptions. Transfers Long and Patton join Krause to form a terrorizing linebacking corps.

Weaknesses: A three-year starting quarterback must be replaced and the secondary is inexperienced.

Outlook: Although the Flames' schedule includes four 1992 Division I-AA playoff teams, they should be bound for postseason play themselves in '93.

Schedule: Concord (W.Va.), Sept. 4; at Appalachian State, Sept. 11; at Southwest Texas State, Sept. 18; Indiana (Pa.), Sept. 25; North Carolina A&T, Oct. 2; at Troy State, Oct. 9; at Youngstown State, Oct. 16; Charleston Southern, Oct. 30; at Central Florida, Nov. 6; at Delaware State, Nov. 13; Villanova, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Flames.

Site: Lynchburg, Va.

MARIST

Coach: Jim Parady (4-5-1, 1 year).

1992 record: 4-5-1 in Division III.

Key players: Kyle Carraro, FB; Don D'Aiuto, TB; Brian McCourt, QB; Joe McGann, DE; Michael Milo, TE; Bryan Oles, S; Dan Phelan, WR; John Thompson, CB; Julian Wyse, TB; Andrew Young, OL.

Strengths: D'Aiuto and Carraro form an explosive backfield. Young leads a bulky, athletic offensive line that returns four starters. McGann anchors a strong defensive line.

Weaknesses: There's a gaping hole at linebacker fol-

lowing the loss of all-time leading tackler Joe Riccardi. An underclassman likely will have to plug it.

Outlook: With 19 starters returning, the Red Foxes shouldn't be below .500 again.

Schedule: At St. Francis (Pa.), Sept. 11; Pace (N.Y.), Sept. 18; C.W. Post (N.Y.), Sept. 25; at St. John's, Oct. 1; at Central Conn. State, Oct. 9; Duquesne, Oct. 16; Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst., Oct. 23; Wagner, Oct. 30; at Iona, Nov. 6; at Siena, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Red Foxes.

Site: Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

SACRAMENTO STATE

Coach: Mike Clemons (first year as coach).

1992 record: 7-3 in Division II.

Key players: Aaron Garcia, QB; Eric Harrington, WR; Werner Hippler, TE; Greg Johnson, LB; Arie Joseph, TB; Pedro Lewis, TB; Michael Parker, WR; Clint Primm, WR; Steve Smith, FS; David Steele, DL.

Strengths: The Hornets boast a glut of skill-position players, including Primm and three other top wide-outs. Lewis and Joseph are talented tailbacks.

Weaknesses: The special teams are bound to struggle after the loss of both kickers. Seven defensive starters are gone, too, including the top two linemen.

Outlook: Clemons has a gruesome rebuilding task and a difficult schedule as the Hornets enter I-AA.

Schedule: Cal State Hayward, Sept. 4; at San Francisco State, Sept. 11; Eastern Washington, Sept. 18; at Pacific, Sept. 25; St. Mary's, Oct. 9; at Cal State Northridge, Oct. 16; at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, Oct. 23; at Montana, Oct. 30; UC Davis, Nov. 13; Southern Utah State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Hornets.

Site: Sacramento, Calif.

ST. FRANCIS

Coach: Frank Pergolizzi (20-19-1, 4 years).

1992 record: 8-2-1 in Division III.

Key players: Kevin Beistel, DB; Greg Davis, WR; Dwayne Eck, RB; Todd Eckenrode, WR; Michael Graziani, DB; Kevin Keenan, RB; Kevin Magee, QB; Kurt Martin, OG; Todd McMahon, OT; Matt Penrose, LB; Jason Wilson, DB; Todd Wisniewski, OT.

Strengths: The Red Flash has 15 starters back, including 2,000-yard passer Magee and top rushers Eck and Keenan. Martin and Wisniewski are solid offensive linemen.

Weaknesses: The defense was ravaged by graduation losses along the line and in the linebacking corps. The kicking game is questionable.

Outlook: Despite his team's jump to Division I-AA, Pergolizzi has a realistic chance for a third straight winning season.

Schedule: Gannon (Pa.), Sept. 4; Marist, Sept. 11; at Sacred Heart (Conn.), Sept. 18; at St. Peter's, Sept. 25; Central Connecticut State, Oct. 2; Monmouth, Oct. 16; at Wagner, Oct. 23; at Canisius, Oct. 30; Duquesne, Nov. 6; at Mercyhurst (Pa.), Nov. 13.

Nickname: Red Flash.

Site: Loretto, Pa.

ST. MARY'S

Coach: Mike Rasmussen (18-12, 3 years).

1992 record: 5-4 in Division II.

Key players: Peter Baichtal, LB; Mike Estrella, K; Scott Evars, LB; Mike Garmon, OL; Johnny Jenkins, DB; Cree Morris, QB; George Petrisans, DL; Domingo Ruiz, DL; Lavelle Townsend, DB.

Strengths: An experienced defense should be down-right dominant at times with Baichtal, Townsend, Petrisans and six other returning starters. The lanky Morris is back at the helm of the offense after an injury-plagued junior season.

Weaknesses: The Gaels lack both talent and experience in the offensive backfield. An offensive line that was thin last year lost two starters to graduation.

Outlook: Although the Gaels are classified as Division I-AA, they will play only two I-AA opponents. They should flourish against overmatched opposition.

Schedule: At San Francisco State, Sept. 4; Cal State Hayward, Sept. 11; at Sonoma State, Sept. 18; at Humboldt State, Sept. 25; Chico State, Oct. 2; at Sacramento State, Oct. 9; Southern Utah State, Oct. 23; UC Davis, Oct. 30; at Western New Mexico, Nov. 6; Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Gaels.

Site: Moraga, Calif.

SAMFORD

Coach: Chan Gailey (first year at Samford; 19-5

overall, 2 years).

1992 record: 9-3 (including 0-1 in I-AA playoffs).

Key players: Marcus Durgin, CB; Carlton Golden, SS; Tory James, LB; Kenny Jones, DL; TeDarryl Marshall, WR; Chad Mobley, NG; Darrell Murray, LB; Vince Noblitt, OT; Brister Packer, LB.

Strengths: Defense. In Packer, Mobley, Murray and Jones, the Bulldogs have formidable talent. James is a punishing linebacker. Durgin, the nation's top I-AA kickoff returner, also is a premier defensive back.

Weaknesses: The Bulldogs can't replace quarterback Ben Wiggins, running back Tank Edwards and tight end Bryan Fisher, all of whom are gone.

Outlook: Gailey, a former offensive coordinator with the Denver Broncos, takes over for Terry Bowden, now the coach at Auburn. Bowden did not leave the cupboard bare.

Schedule: Glenville (W.Va.) State, Sept. 4; at Auburn, Sept. 11; Tennessee Tech, Sept. 18; Bethune-Cookman, Sept. 25; at Nicholls State, Oct. 2; at Central Florida, Oct. 9; Mississippi College, Oct. 16; at Youngstown State, Oct. 23; UT-Martin, Nov. 6; at Southwest Missouri St., Nov. 13; Troy State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Bulldogs.

Site: Birmingham, Ala.

SOUTHERN UTAH STATE

Coach: Jack Bishop (71-51-3, 12 years).

1992 record: 6-5 in Division II.

Key players: James Bleak, LB; Kevin Boyler, OT; Lawrence Gilbert, SS; Matt Gordon, P; Daniel Harris, TB; Benji Hoskins, RB; Jared Hunsaker, LB; Wilson Kauvaka, FB; Chris Kruger, DT; Rick Robins, QB.

Strengths: Hunsaker, Kruger and Bleak lead a strong defense, particularly against the run. The Thunderbirds' own rushing attack should be prolific again with Harris and Kauvaka.

Weaknesses: The absence of a top wide receiver and a three-year starter at tight end may create problems for the passing game.

Outlook: Much of the T-Birds' success will depend on the development of Robins, a redshirt sophomore.

Schedule: Northern Arizona, Sept. 4; at Angelo State, Sept. 11; at Central Oklahoma, Sept. 18; UC Davis, Sept. 25; at Montana State, Oct. 9; Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, Oct. 16; at Saint Mary's, Oct. 23; at Weber State, Oct. 30; Portland State, Nov. 6; at Cal State Northridge, Nov. 13; at Sacramento State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Thunderbirds.

Site: Cedar City, Utah.

TOWSON STATE

Coach: Gordy Combs (5-5, 1 year).

1992 record: 5-5.

Key players: Mike Arbutina, LB; Aaron Bates, FS; Dan Crowley, QB; John Loch, OT; Brian McCarty, TB; Dan Nate, LB; Karl Nieberlein, OT; Mark Orlando, WR; Tony Vinson, TB; Alex Vodopija, P.

Strengths: Crowley is back for his third year as a starter. Vinson, McCarty and Orlando are prolific offensive players. Bates anchors a stingy secondary.

Weaknesses: The Tigers have little depth at offensive tackle and outside linebacker.

Outlook: Towson State overcame dismal preseason forecasts to have a banner, record-breaking offensive year. The 25th year of Tiger football could be a splendid one, too, if Crowley plays well.

Schedule: Central Connecticut State, Sept. 11; Delaware State, Sept. 18; Charleston Southern, Sept. 25; at Connecticut, Oct. 2; Howard, Oct. 16; at Buffalo, Oct. 23; at Hofstra, Oct. 30; at Delaware, Nov. 6; Bucknell, Nov. 13; at Morgan State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Tigers.

Site: Towson, Md.

TROY STATE

Coach: Larry Blakeney (15-7, 2 years).

1992 record: 10-1 in Division II.

Key players: Ced Brooks, FS; Antwoine Clark, DT; Bob Hall, OT; Jon Heath, SS; Sherman James, DT; Sam Jones, CB; Randolph Lovejoy, TB; Allen Ray, OT; Kelvin Simmons, QB; Richard Young, DB.

Strengths: With three-fourths of the secondary and burly tackles James and Clark back, the defense—which allowed a measly 10.7 points per game in 1992—may again be suffocating. The fleet, well-armed Simmons is a dangerous offensive player.

Weaknesses: The top three running backs and three starting linebackers all must be replaced. Everyone except the punter has been lost on the kicking units.

Outlook: From Division II to the Division I-AA playoffs

in one season? Don't laugh. The Trojans seem primed to accomplish just that.

Schedule: At Alabama-Birmingham, Sept. 6; at Northwestern (La.) State, Sept. 11; at Nicholls State, Sept. 18; at Alabama State, Sept. 25; Charleston Southern, Oct. 2; Liberty, Oct. 9; Central State (O.), Oct. 23; Central Florida, Oct. 30; Western Kentucky, Nov. 6; Alcorn State, Nov. 13; at Samford, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Trojans.

Site: Troy, Ala.

WAGNER

Coach: Walt Hamline (95-30-2, 12 years).

1992 record: 9-2 in Division III.

Key players: Pat Connolly, WR; Bryan Devone, LB; Roger Fiddemon, DB; Anthony Harper, DE; Kito Lockwood, RB; Kevin Moran, LB; Brian Prescod, RB; Chris Purdy, FB; Ryan Tobin, LB.

Strengths: Lockwood, Prescod and Purdy are runners with considerable talent. Harper anchors a sturdy defensive line.

Weaknesses: The passing game could slumber without an experienced quarterback. The secondary is filled with youth and inexperience.

Outlook: The 1992 Liberty Conference champions will be hard pressed to repeat their 9-2 season after moving up to I-AA. A quarterback must emerge.

Schedule: C.W. Post (N.Y.), Sept. 11; St. John's, Sept. 18; Central Connecticut State, Sept. 25; Iona, Oct. 2; at Duquesne, Oct. 9; at Pace (N.Y.), Oct. 16; St. Francis, Oct. 23; at Marist, Oct. 30; at Monmouth, Nov. 6; at San Diego, Nov. 13.

Nickname: Seahawks.

Site: Staten Island, N.Y.

WESTERN KENTUCKY

Coach: Jack Harbaugh (15-27, 4 years; 40-54-3 overall, 9 years).

1992 record: 4-6.

Key players: Shawn Banks, LB; Dion Bryant, FB; Danny Davis, DT; Adam Hall, TE; Robert Jackson, WR; Ty Koon, OG; Lito Mason, WR; Dan McGrath, LB/SS; Ben Mooney, DE; Eddie Thompson, QB.

Strengths: The Hilltoppers were No. 2 in I-AA rushing last year and Thompson, who also played halfback, wide receiver and kick returner, was the division's top rushing quarterback. Eleven of the 13 players who took handoffs in 1992 are back.

Weaknesses: The defense is improving, but it's also inexperienced. Except for McGrath, the secondary has to play better.

Outlook: With Thompson handling the reins, who knows how far the Hilltoppers can go.

Schedule: At Eastern Kentucky, Sept. 2; at Kansas State, Sept. 11; at Austin Peay State, Sept. 18; Alabama-Birmingham, Sept. 25; Jacksonville State, Oct. 2; at Southern Illinois, Oct. 16; at Indiana State, Oct. 23; Western Illinois, Oct. 30; at Troy State, Nov. 6; Eastern Illinois, Nov. 13; Murray State, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Hilltoppers.

Site: Bowling Green, Ky.

YOUNGSTOWN STATE

Coach: Jim Tressel (57-31-1, 7 years).

1992 record: 11-3-1 (including 3-1 in I-AA playoffs).

Key players: Reggie Brown, DB; David Burch, DL; Darrell Clark, RB; Drew Gerber, OG; Alfred Hill, LB; Paul Kokos, OL; Reginald Lee, LB; Jeff Powers, LB; Randy Smith, DB; Tamron Smith, RB; Jeff Wilkins, K.

Strengths: The Penguins will go as far as Tamron Smith and Clark, both 1,000-yard rushers, take them. Gerber and Kokos, a pair of 300-pounders, anchor the offensive line. Powers, Hill and Lee are talented, experienced linebackers. The secondary is strong. Wilkins is an accurate kicker.

Weaknesses: A new quarterback and two starting defensive linemen must be found.

Outlook: The Penguins, who won the national championship two seasons ago, are quietly building a I-AA dynasty. They'll contend again.

Schedule: At Stephen F. Austin, Sept. 11; Morgan State, Sept. 18; at Western Michigan, Sept. 25; at Eastern Kentucky, Oct. 2; Delaware State, Oct. 9; Liberty, Oct. 16; Samford, Oct. 23; Buffalo State, Oct. 30; Indiana State, Nov. 6; at Illinois State, Nov. 13; at Akron, Nov. 20.

Nickname: Penguins.

Site: Youngstown, O.

Text by Jeff D'Alessio.

Overcoming adversity

Sonoma State's 305-pounder is pulling his weight

By RALPH LEEF

Santa Rosa Press Democrat

Larry Allen is counting on the hard times to help prepare him for what may be a bright future.

He was stabbed by a neighbor as a youth.

He attended four high schools, each more than 500 miles north of his hometown of Compton, Calif., after his parents divorced.

He had recruiters from Clemson, Southern California and several other Division I schools eager for his signature following his senior year at Vintage High School in Napa, Calif. But poor grades limited his options, so he attended Butte College in Oroville, Calif.

The offensive tackle ultimately transferred to NCAA Division II Sonoma State, where he learned just before the start of last season that his grandfather had been felled in a drive-by shooting in Compton. His grandfather survived, but the 21-year-old Allen was shaken by the experience.

Despite those trying events, the 6-foot-4, 305-pound senior appears to have a bright future, if he can show National Football League scouts that his 1992 season was no fluke.

Allen earned All-America honors from the Associated Press and the American Football Coaches Association following one of the most impressive and dominant performances by a Division II offensive lineman in years.

Minnesota Vikings assistant head scout Don Deisch, one of several NFL talent evaluators poring over film and making repeated visits to Sonoma State in Rohnert Park, Calif., to test Allen, has been impressed with what he's seen.

"Allen is one of the dominant players at this level that I've seen in my 17 years of doing this," Deisch said. "He has the physical ability to be an NFL player. From my viewpoint he has to put everything together in his senior year."

That year begins on September 4, when the Cossacks open their season at Division I-AA Weber State.

Deisch said Allen has a remarkable blend of balance, quick feet and hip strike that you just don't see at the Division II level. And, more to the point, the Division II non-scholarship level.

"He's a guy you don't see come along every day," Deisch said. "He could be even better, but that can only be determined by him."

Translated: Allen can't afford to rest on his All-America laurels.

"It is up to him (Allen)," Deisch said. "He has to give the extra things to make the next step. It's a big step and you have to be plugged in. I'm talking about organizing your day so you run, lift weights and be as good as you can be."



Making noise: Scouts started hearing stories of Larry Allen and his superb physical skills early last season.

Allen has dreamed of playing in the NFL since his mother and father gave him his first football when he was 9. But growing up in Compton, Allen didn't think he'd even get to play football in college—let alone in the NFL. He wasn't sure he'd get out of Compton alive.

When Allen was 10, he was stabbed in the head twice and about the neck and shoulder eight times by a 12-year-old, who was threatening Allen's younger brother. Allen was hospitalized and received many stitches, but he quickly rebounded from the attack.

"I learned something from that experience," said Allen, who claims to have gotten into fights just about every day as a youth. "Don't mess with anyone carrying a blade."

But the breakup of his parents' marriage may have saved Allen from something worse than the stabbing.

"We moved around so much after my parents split that I didn't get into the gang scene," Allen said. "It was rough there (Compton). I think it's stupid, people killing each other just to survive. It is pretty grim."

Allen followed his mother to Stockton, Fairfield and Napa in Northern California after playing his first year of high school football at Centennial Senior in Compton.

When his mother moved back to Compton following his junior year in high school, Allen decided to stay in Northern California and moved in with family friends.

"I felt I had to stay out (of Compton)," Allen said. "It's home, but it is tough to get motivated in that environment."

Allen would eventually return to that blighted habitat. Discouraged that he still couldn't go to a Division I school following his sophomore year at Butte (because he hadn't earned his associate's degree), Allen went back to Compton for a year. But there

were no jobs, and football recruiters soon stopped calling. Except one—Frank Scalerio at Sonoma State.

Although he had no scholarship to offer, Scalerio kept calling and eventually convinced Allen's mother that her son should come back to Northern California.

Allen said he knew it was the right choice, although Sonoma State, located about 45 miles north of San Francisco, is no Southern California or Clemson.

"I had to get out (of Compton) and do something for myself," Allen said. "There aren't many opportunities in my hometown."

Except for California-Davis, the perennial Northern California Athletic Conference champion, NFL scouts generally pay visits to schools like Sonoma State as a polite formality rather than with any real hopes of finding someone who can make the jump to the big time.

Still, there have been just enough players drafted out of the non-scholarship NCAC (via UC-Davis) to keep the scouts on their toes. Players like quarterback Ken O'Brien (Jets '83), defensive lineman Mike Wise (Raiders '86), free safety Bo Eason (Oilers '84) and place-kicker Rolf Benirschke (Raiders '77). And Allen could join that list as the first Sonoma State player ever drafted.

Those who have coached Allen, or coached against him, say they wouldn't be surprised if he makes the transition from the small school of about 7,000 students in wine country to the NFL.

"There's not a doubt in my mind he's got the stuff," said Tim Walsh, who stepped down as Sonoma State's coach following the '92 campaign to take over at Portland State. "Larry dominated every game he played in, almost to a point where it was too easy for him."

Bob Foster, who retired in November as UC-Davis' football coach, echoed Walsh's statement.

"Allen is the best offensive lineman we've ever faced," he said.

The rare combination of size, speed, agility and defensive-end mentality that Allen combines makes him the player to watch in Division II this season. But scouts like Allen for more than his devastating power.

They like him because he can dunk a basketball.

They like him because he has been clocked under five seconds, consistently, in the 40-yard dash. His best clocking, according to Scalerio, is 4.85.

They like him because he doesn't run sprints with the other linemen; he tags along with the wide receivers and embarrasses the tight ends.

You've heard of the great pulling guards? Allen is a devastating pulling tackle.

In an upset victory by Sonoma State over

Portland State last season, which moved the Cossacks into the AP's Top 10 for the first time ever, Allen made a play that had coaches on both sides of the field impressed.

Facing third and long from its own 10, Sonoma called on running back Johnny Mack to run a counter.

Allen turned under a good kick-out block by the left guard, brushed aside a linebacker and sprinted downfield with Mack trying to keep up.

A Portland State defensive back lost his senses, briefly, and attempted to challenge Allen at about the 45-yard line. It was a mistake. Allen knocked him head over heels without breaking stride and continued to charge down field. Mack was eventually tackled—from behind.

Foster wasn't surprised to hear about the play. He had seen it, and others like it, on film when preparing to play the Cossacks last season.

"The guy (Allen) can knock one guy down and go get another guy," Foster said. "He's got everything: size, speed, explosiveness, agility. We sat in the film room with our mouths hanging open when we were preparing for Sonoma. We were horrified."

Walsh laughed at hearing Foster's comments.

"A man that big who can run stride-for-stride with receivers is a scary thing," Walsh said.

Scalerio, who coached Sonoma State's offensive line last season before being promoted to the top job following Walsh's departure, said there were times when he had to ask Allen to slow down so he wouldn't ruin the timing of a particular blocking scheme. Other linemen just couldn't keep up with him.

And Scalerio said opposing defenders quickly learned that the only way to stop Allen was to try to fall at his feet and hope he'd trip. But with his leaping ability, that seldom happened.

Scouts started hearing stories of Allen and his extraordinary physical skills early last season.

"Some scouts were saying if he went out early ('93 draft), he would go in the sixth or seventh round," Walsh said. "They said if he waited and played this year, he could go as high as the second round in '94."

Deisch, however, said he doubted that NFL teams would have used a valuable draft choice on Allen after only one season at the Division II level.

"Just two years out of the JC level, and after sitting out a year, I don't think he's quite ready for the NFL," Deisch said. "But if he has a good senior year, he's draftable."

Allen, a man of few words, said it was a fairly easy choice for him to stick around for his senior year.

"I don't think I'm ready yet," Allen said of the NFL. "I sat out a year before coming here and I need another year to work on some things."

Walsh agrees with that thinking. "He (Allen) has great ability at the Division II level, but the next step is huge. He needs to perfect more fundamentals, like pass protection. Right now he can get away with things with his strength and speed. But he needs to be more polished at the next level." ■

TSN

PREDICTIONS

DIVISION II TOP 10

1. NORTH DAKOTA STATE

Coach: Rocky Hager.

1992 record: 10-2 (including 1-1 in playoffs).

Conference: 8-1/1st.

2. NORTH ALABAMA

Coach: Bobby Wallace.

1992 record: 7-4-1 (including 1-1 in playoffs).

Conference: 3-2-1/T2nd.

3. EAST TEXAS STATE

Coach: Eddie Vowell.

1992 record: 8-3.

Conference: 5-1/2nd.

4. NEW HAVEN (CONN.)

Coach: Mark Whipple.

1992 record: 12-1 (including 2-1 in playoffs).

Independent.

5. TEXAS A&I

Coach: Ron Harms.

1992 record: 9-3 (including 1-1 in playoffs).

Conference: 6-0/1st.

6. PITTSBURG (KAN.) STATE

Coach: Chuck Broyles.

1992 record: 14-1 (including 3-1 in playoffs).

Conference: 9-0/1st.

7. PORTLAND (ORE.) STATE

Coach: Tim Walsh.

1992 record: 9-4 (including 2-1 in playoffs).

Conference: 3-1/1st.

8. EDINBORO (PA.)

Coach: Tom Hollman.

1992 record: 8-2-1 (including 0-1 in playoffs).

Conference: 4-1-1/2nd.

9. GRAND VALLEY ST. (MICH.)

Coach: Brian Kelly.

1992 record: 8-3.

Conference: 8-2/T1st.

10. HAMPTON (VA.)

Coach: Joe Taylor.

1992 record: 9-2-1 (including 0-1 in playoffs).

Conference: 6-0-1/1st.

TSN's PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name	School
WR	Sean Stevenson	Kentucky State
WR	Tony Willis	New Haven (Conn.)
TE	Tim Brown	Clarion (Pa.)
L	Larry Allen	Sonoma State (Calif.)
L	Kevin Bloom	North Dakota State
L	Chris Burns	Portland (Ore.) State
L	Jorgen Gustafsson	Grand Valley State (Mich.)
L	Emerson Martin	Hampton (Va.)
QB	Arden Beachy	North Dakota State
RB	Tyrone Rush	North Alabama
RB	Thelbert Withers	New Mexico Highlands

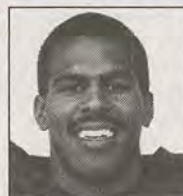
DEFENSE

Pos.	Name	School
DL	Ira Richards	Central Oklahoma
DL	Bill Royce	Ashland (O.)
DL	Bart Woods	Central Missouri State
LB	Ron Burton	Missouri Southern State
LB	Jason Perkins	Edinboro (Pa.)
LB	Lee Woodall	West Chester (Pa.)
LB	Fred Woods	East Texas State
DB	Kevin Ford	Saginaw Valley State (Mich.)
DB	David Foster	Fort Hays State (Kan.)
DB	Keith Pittman	Texas A&I
DB	Sean Spencer	Clarion (Pa.)

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name	School
PK	Billy Watkins	East Texas State
P	Pat Hogelin	Colorado School of Mines
KR	John Miller	Mansfield (Pa.)

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

Arden Beachy, North Dakota State



DEFENSE:

Bill Royce, Ashland (O.)

DIVISION II DATA

1992 LEADERS

(Returning players only)

Rushing: Roger Graham, New Haven (Conn.), 171.7 yds./game (200 att., 1,717 yds., 22 TDs, 8.6 avg.).

Passing efficiency: Rovell McMillien, Winston-Salem (N.C.) State, 150.2 rating pts. (165 att., 83 comp., 1,532 yds., 14 TDs).

Total offense: Thad Trujillo, Fort Lewis (Colo.), 304.7 yds./game (64 yds. rushing, 2,983 yds. passing, 3,047 total yds.).

Receiving: Troy Walker, Cal St. Chico, 7.9 rec./game (79 rec., 874 yds., 5 TDs, 11.1 avg.).

Scoring: David McCartney, Chadron (Neb.) State, 15.4 pts./game (25 TDs, 4 PATs, 0 FGs, 154 pts.).

Punting: Jimmy Morris, Angelo State (Tex.), 44.5 avg. (45 punts, 2,001 yds.).

Punt returns: Doug Grant, Savannah (Ga.) State, 24.4 avg. (15 att., 366 yds., 2 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Dave Ludy, Winona (Minn.) State, 35.2 avg. (25 att., 881 yds., 3 TDs).

Field goals: Billy Watkins, East Texas State, 1.4 FG/game (15/26 FGs, 58%).

Interceptions: Pat Williams, East Texas State, 1.2 int./game (13 int., 145 yds., 1 TD).

1992 PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

Ferris State (Mich.) 19, Edinboro (Pa.) 15
New Haven (Conn.) 38, West Chester (Pa.) 26
Jacksonville (Ala.) State 41, Savannah (Ga.) State 16
North Alabama 33, Hampton (Va.) 21
Pittsburg (Kan.) State 26, North Dakota 21
North Dakota State 42, Northeast Missouri State 7
Texas A&I 22, Western State (Colo.) 13
Portland (Ore.) State 42, UC Davis 28

QUARTERFINALS

New Haven 35, Ferris State 13
Jacksonville State 14, North Alabama 12
Pittsburg State 38, North Dakota State 37, OT
Portland State 35, Texas A&I 30

SEMIFINALS

Jacksonville State 46, New Haven 35
Pittsburg State 41, Portland State 38

CHAMPIONSHIP

Jacksonville State 17, Pittsburg State 13

Storming to success

War veteran knows true meaning of pressure

By SCOTT WILLIAMS

Stevens Point Journal

Coaches often point to certain players who possess special qualities—like guts, determination and a fighting spirit—that they wish everyone on their team had.

Wisconsin-Stevens Point free safety Randy Simpson is one of those players.

Prior to arriving at Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Simpson spent four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, including a tour of duty as part of Operation Desert Storm.

"As a coaching staff we look at Randy and say, 'If he can roam the sands of Desert Storm, then he can roam the secondary in the WSUC (Wisconsin State University Conference),' " Wisconsin-Stevens Point Coach John Miech said.

But for someone who had spent his entire life around athletics, the definition of pressure certainly took on a different meaning during the Persian Gulf War.

"You just can't compare the pressures of being at war with playing a football game," said Simpson, who was named to several Division III All-America teams last season. "Football is just three hours out on a field spent trying to defeat an opponent. After the game, everything returns to normal.

"But the pressure and stress involved with something like Desert Storm was really tough because you didn't know what was going to happen to you."

Simpson, 24, joined the Marine Corps out of Phillips (Wis.) High School in 1987, following a brilliant prep basketball and football career. His decision to join the service was made on the spur of the moment after he had developed mononucleosis prior to his senior year in high school.

The disappointment of not playing football his senior year was tough for Simpson to swallow, especially since he already had received interest from the football programs at North Dakota, North Dakota State and Northern Michigan.

"I really didn't think I would be able to play football my senior year because of the mono," Simpson explained. "So, I decided to enlist in the delayed-entry program with a buddy. Even though I had some chances to get out of the agreement, I decided to go through with it."

At the time, the thought of fighting a war never entered his mind.

Simpson spent the early portion of his four-year stint in the service on training missions in the Philippines, Japan and Thailand. That all changed dramatically, however, when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Simpson was stationed on the U.S.S. Ogden, an amphibious carrier, in the Philippines when word came that their presence was required in the Persian Gulf.



Football can wait: Prior to arriving at Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Randy Simpson (with ball) spent four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, including a tour of duty as part of Operation Desert Storm.

"It was kind of scary," Simpson said. "It's kind of a shock being in a situation you've never been in before. You stop and think that you could go out on a mission and never come back."

As a result, Simpson and the rest of the approximately 900 other Marines on the U.S.S. Ogden were asked to make wills.

Fortunately, the Gulf War lasted a relatively short time and Simpson's unit was never called into combat duty. However, the Marines on the Ogden were responsible for interrogating, guarding and transporting more than 1,600 prisoners captured during the war.

After getting a chance to see the enemy up close, Simpson was surprised by the poor condition of many of the Iraqi soldiers—both physically and mentally. Simpson noted that the Iraqi soldiers ranged in age from 20 to 60, and almost all of them were malnourished. Additionally, many of them wore either tennis shoes or sandals instead of combat boots.

"At first, we really weren't sure why we were sent there (the Persian Gulf)," Simpson said. "More or less, we turned out to be a show of force."

"We were all so angry for what Iraq had done that we wanted to get back at them somehow. If that meant going on a combat mission, we were willing to do it."

"I think after the war ended, everyone realized we were probably pretty lucky we didn't have to go on a mission. Someone might not have come back. It could've been a buddy or you."

With the war behind him, Simpson quickly turned his attention to college and a return to football. He knew he wanted to exchange his battle fatigues and combat boots for a football jersey and shoulder pads. But where?

He eventually chose to attend Wisconsin-Stevens Point over the likes of Wisconsin-La Crosse—the 1992 NCAA Division III national champion—and Wisconsin-Eau Claire. When he arrived in Stevens Point in the fall of 1991, Simpson planned to win a starting wide receiver spot. After all, wide receiver was where Simpson had distinguished himself in high school.

But the presence of returning standouts Barry Rose, who was picked by Buffalo in the 10th round of the 1992 National Football League draft, and Dean Bryan, along with the rust of a four-year layoff, forced Simpson to rethink matters.

"I was really rusty," Simpson said. "I was a step behind everything, and my reactions weren't quite what they used to be. I was just so out of football mentally."

After giving serious thought to quitting the sport, Simpson approached Miech, who suggested that he try playing defense. The switch to free safety turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

Simpson made an immediate impact as a freshman, finishing eighth on the team in tackles with 42. He also ranked third in interceptions with three, despite seeing only limited action in five games.

"We told Randy that playing free safety would allow him to free-lance a little bit and be himself," Miech said. "His type of athletic ability can't be coached or made. You're born with it."

"Randy is more or less a coach's dream."

In addition to his natural athletic ability, Simpson credits certain football instincts for his success.

"It's pretty hard to explain, but I just



Nose for the game: In addition to his natural athletic ability, All-America free safety Randy Simpson credits certain football instincts for his success.

know what the quarterback is going to do each play," he said. "It's like I have a sixth sense for what the opposing offense is going to do."

As a result, opponents must be aware of where Simpson is at all times. He was hard to keep track of last year. Simpson ranked second on the team in tackles with 84, including a team-high 62 solo stops, while also intercepting eight passes.

Postseason honors quickly followed. The 6-foot-3, 210-pounder was named first-team all-conference, first-team Division III All-America by Champion U.S.A., second-team All-America by the Football Gazette and third-team Little All-America by The Associated Press. Those are impressive accolades for someone who played on a team that finished 5-4 overall and fourth in the WSUC with a 4-3 record.

Simpson's teammates also look to the junior for leadership, a responsibility he accepts reluctantly because he's by no means a rah-rah guy.

"Randy's a very hard worker on and off the field, and that type of work ethic rubs off on everyone else," senior cornerback Mark Leidel said. "He's a silent-leader type who just goes out and gets the job done. The fact he's older and still wanted to go to college and play football means that much more to the other guys on the team."

Even Simpson's teammates on offense look to him for inspiration.

"Everybody really looks up to him because of what he went through and what he does on the field," senior offensive tackle Derek Sell said. ■

TSN

PREDICTIONS

DIVISION III TOP 10

1. MOUNT UNION (O.)

Coach: Larry Kehres.
1992 record: 12-1 (including 2-1 in playoffs).
Conference: 9-0/1st.

2. BUFFALO (N.Y.) STATE

Coach: Jerry Boyes.
1992 record: 8-3 (including 1-1 in playoffs).
Independent.

3. WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

Coach: Roger Harring.
1992 record: 12-0-1 (including 4-0 in play offs). Conference: 6-0-1/1st.

4. THOMAS MORE (KY.)

Coach: Victor Clark.
1992 record: 9-2 (including 0-1 in playoffs).
Conference: 3-0/1st.

5. ITHACA (N.Y.)

Coach: Jim Butterfield.
1992 record: 9-2 (including 0-1 in playoffs).
Independent.

6. LYCOMING (PA.)

Coach: Frank Girardi.
1992 record: 8-1-1 (including 0-1 in playoffs).
Conference: 7-0-1/1st.

7. ST. JOHN'S (MINN.)

Coach: John Gagliardi.
1992 record: 8-1-1.
Conference: 7-1-1/2nd.

8. AUGUSTANA (ILL.)

Coach: Bob Reade.
1992 record: 6-3.
Conference: 6-1/2nd.

9. CENTRAL (IA.)

Coach: Ron Schipper.
1992 record: 10-1 (including 1-1 in playoffs).
Conference: 8-0/1st.

10. ALBION (MICH.)

Coach: Pete Schmidt.
1992 record: 8-1.
Conference: 5-0/1st.

TSN's PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Name, School
WR	Matt Newton, Principia (Ill.)
WR	Brian Vandegrift, Rhodes (Tenn.)
TE	Rob Atwood, Mount Union (O.)
L	Burt Chamberlin, St. John's (Minn.)
L	Tim Heinz, Aurora (Ill.)
L	Mike Flesch, Thomas More (Ky.)
L	Dave Lang, Wisconsin-Whitewater
L	Kris Rauschenberger, Ithaca (N.Y.)
QB	Jim Ballard, Mount Union (O.)
RB	Carey Bender, Coe (Ia.)
RB	Carl Cravens, U. of the South

DEFENSE

Pos.	Name, School
DL	Erik Arthur, Bridgewater (Mass.) State
DL	Glen Hummel, Central (Ia.)
DL	Scott Pruner, Emory & Henry (Va.)
LB	Shawn Prendergast, Wash. & Jefferson (Pa.)
LB	Rusty VanWetzinga, Augustana (Ill.)
LB	Steve Walker, Wisconsin-River Falls
LB	Chad Wilson, Carnegie-Mellon (Pa.)
DB	Scott Amond, Wisconsin-La Crosse
DB	Trent Morris, Buffalo (N.Y.) State
DB	Randy Simpson, Wisconsin-Stevens Point
DB	Greg Thoma, St. John's (Minn.)

SPECIALISTS

Pos.	Name, School
PK	Scott Rubinetti, Montclair State (N.J.)
P	Ryan Haley, John Carroll (O.)
KR	Andrew Wind, Occidental (Calif.)

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



OFFENSE:

Jim Ballard,
QB, Mount Union (O.)



DEFENSE:

Glen Hummel,
DL, Central (Ia.)

DIVISION III DATA

1992 LEADERS

(Returning players only)

Rushing: Trent Nauholz, Simpson (Ia.), 162.8 yds./game (254 att., 1,302 yds., 21 TDs, 5.1 avg.).

Passing efficiency: Jim Ballard, Mount Union (O.), 167.4 rating pts. (292 att., 186 comp., 2,656 yds., 29 TDs).

Total offense: Jordan Poznick, Principia (Ill.), 343.4 yds./game (129 yds. rushing, 2,618 passing, 2,747 total yds.).

Receiving: Matt Newton, Principia (Ill.), 12.3 rec./game (98 rec., 1,487 yds., 14 TDs, 15.2 avg.).

Scoring: Trent Nauholz, Simpson (Ia.), 16/game (21 TDs, 2 PATs, 0 FGs, 128 pts.).

Punting: Andy Mahle, Otterbein (O.), 40.1 avg. (59 punts, 2,364 yds.).

Punt returns: Andrew Wind, Occidental (Calif.), 18.7 avg. (23 att., 430 yds., 2 TDs).

Kickoff returns: Jason Martin, Coe (Ia.), 39.8 avg. (11 att., 438 yds., 1 TD).

Field goals: Todd Holthaus, Rose-Hulman (Ind.), 1.3 FG/game (13/19 FGs, 68%).

Interceptions: Chris Butts, Worcester (Mass.) State, 1.3 int./game (12 int., 109 yds., 0 TDs).

1992 PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

Mount Union (O.) 27, Dayton (O.) 10
Illinois Wesleyan 21, Aurora (Ill.) 12
Central (Ia.) 20, Carleton (Minn.) 8
Wisconsin-La Crosse 47, Redlands (Calif.) 26
Emory & Henry (Va.) 17, Thomas More (Ky.) 0
Washington & Jefferson (Pa.) 33, Lycoming (Pa.) 0
Rowan (N.J.) 41, Worcester (Mass.) Tech 14
Buffalo (N.Y.) State 28, Ithaca (N.Y.) 26

QUARTERFINALS

Mount Union 49, Illinois Wesleyan 27
Wisconsin-La Crosse 34, Central 9
Washington & Jefferson 51, Emory & Henry 15
Rowan 28, Buffalo State 19

SEMIFINALS

Wisconsin-La Crosse 29, Mount Union 24
Washington & Jefferson 18, Rowan 13

CHAMPIONSHIP

Wisconsin-La Crosse 16, Washington & Jefferson 12

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COACHING CHANGES

DIVISION I-A

School	Former coach	New coach
Arkansas	Joe Kines*	Danny Ford
Arkansas State	Ray Perkins	John Bobo
Auburn	Pat Dye	Terry Bowden
Baylor	Grant Teaff	Chuck Reedy
Colorado State	Earle Bruce	Sonny Lubick
Eastern Michigan	Jan Quarless†	Ron Cooper
Houston	John Jenkins	Kim Helton
Pittsburgh	Paul Hackett	Johnny Majors
San Jose State	Ron Turner	John Ralston
Southern California	Larry Smith	John Robinson
Temple	Jerry Berndt	Ron Dickerson
Tennessee	Johnny Majors	Phillip Fulmer‡
Wake Forest	Bill Dooley	Jim Caldwell

*Kines replaced Jack Crowe after one game.

†Quarless replaced Jim Harkema after four games.

‡Fulmer was an interim replacement for Majors, who was ill, the first four games of 1992.



John Ralston



Phillip Fulmer

DIVISION I-AA

School	Former coach	New coach
Boise State	Skip Hall	Pokey Allen
Colgate	Mike Foley	Edward Sweeney
Duquesne	Dan McCann	Greg Gattuso
Georgetown	Scotty Glacken	Robert Benson
Maine	Kirk Ferentz	Jack Cosgrove
Murray State	Mike Mahoney	Houston Nutt
Nicholls State	Phil Greco	Rick Rhoades
Rhode Island	Bob Griffin	Floyd Keith
Sacramento State	Bob Mattos	Mike Clemons
Samford	Terry Bowden	Chan Gailey
Southern	Marino Casem*	Pete Richardson
UT-Chattanooga	Buddy Nix	Tommy West
Tennessee State	Joe Gilliam	Bill Davis

*Casem served as interim coach in 1992.

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1992 FINAL POLLS

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- Alabama
- Florida State
- Miami (Fla.)
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- Michigan
- Texas A&M
- Georgia
- Syracuse
- Stanford
- Colorado
- Nebraska
- Mississippi
- Florida
- Washington
- Tennessee
- North Carolina State
- Washington State
- North Carolina
- Ohio State
- Hawaii

AP

- Alabama
- Florida State
- Miami (Fla.)
- Notre Dame
- Michigan
- Syracuse
- Texas A&M
- Georgia
- Stanford
- Florida
- Washington
- Tennessee
- Colorado
- Nebraska
- Washington State
- Mississippi
- North Carolina State
- Ohio State
- North Carolina
- Hawaii

DIVISION I-AA 1992 PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

Delaware 56, Samford (Ala.) 21
Middle Tennessee State 35, Appalachian State (N.C.) 10
Marshall (W.Va.) 44, Eastern Kentucky 0
The Citadel (S.C.) 44, North Carolina A&T 0
Youngstown (O.) State 23, Villanova (Pa.) 20
McNeese State (La.) 23, Idaho 20
Northern Iowa 17, Eastern Washington 14
Northeast Louisiana 78, Alcorn State (Miss.) 27

QUARTERFINALS

Delaware 41, Northeast Louisiana 18
Marshall 35, Middle Tennessee State 21
Youngstown State 42, The Citadel 17
Northern Iowa 29, McNeese State 7

SEMIFINALS

Marshall 28, Delaware 7
Youngstown State 19, Northern Iowa 7

CHAMPIONSHIP

Marshall 31, Youngstown State 28

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

AP—all-purpose player
att.—attempts
avg.—average
C—center
CB—cornerback
comp.—completions
DB—defensive back
DE—defensive end
DL—defensive lineman
DT—defensive tackle
E—end
FB—fullback
FG/game—field goals per game
FGs—field goals
FL—flanker
Fr.—freshman
G—guard
HB—halfback
H-B—H-back
IB—I-back
ILB—inside linebacker
int.—interceptions
int./game—interceptions per game
JC—junior college
Jr.—junior
K—place-kicker
KR—kick returner
L—lineman
LB—linebacker
MG—middle guard
NG—noseguard
NT—nose tackle
OL—offensive lineman
OLB—outside line-backer
OT—offensive tackle
P—punter
PATs—points after touchdown
PK—place-kicker
Prop 48—failed to meet the academic requirements of Proposition 48 last year
pts.—points
pts./game—points per game
QB—quarterback
RB—running back
rec.—receptions
rec./game—receptions per game
RS—sat out 1991 as a redshirt
S—safety
SB—slotback
SE—split end
Soph.—sophomore
Sr.—senior
St.—State
T—tackle
TB—tailback
TBs—touchdowns
TE—tight end
WB—wingback
WR—wide receiver
yds.—yards
yds./game—yards per game

COLLEGE BOWL GAMES SCHEDULE

Game	Site	Date	Last season's result
Alamo Bowl	San Antonio, Tex.	Dec. 31	New bowl game in 1993
Federal Express Orange Bowl	Miami	Jan. 1	Florida State 27, Nebraska 14
Florida Citrus Bowl	Orlando, Fla.	Jan. 1	Georgia 21, Ohio State 14
Freedom Bowl	Anaheim, Calif.	Dec. 29	Fresno State 24, Southern Cal 7
Hall of Fame Bowl	Tampa, Fla.	Jan. 1	Tennessee 38, Boston College 23
IBM OS/2 Fiesta Bowl	Tempe, Ariz.	Jan. 1	Syracuse 26, Colorado 22
Jeep/Eagle Aloha Bowl	Honolulu	Dec. 25	Kansas 23, Brigham Young 20
John Hancock Bowl	El Paso, Tex.	Dec. 30	Baylor 20, Arizona 15
Las Vegas Bowl	Las Vegas	Dec. 17	Bowling Green 35, Nevada 34
Mobil Cotton Bowl	Dallas	Jan. 1	Notre Dame 28, Texas A&M 3
Outback Steakhouse Gator Bowl	Jacksonville, Fla.	Dec. 31	Florida 27, North Carolina State 10
Peach Bowl	Atlanta	Dec. 31	North Carolina 21, Mississippi State 17
Poulan/Weed Eater Independence Bowl	Shreveport, La.	Dec. 31	Wake Forest 39, Oregon 35
Rose Bowl	Pasadena, Calif.	Jan. 1	Michigan 38, Washington 31
St. Jude Liberty Bowl	Memphis, Tenn.	Dec. 29	Mississippi 13, Air Force 0
Sunshine Football Classic*	Miami	Jan. 1	Stanford 24, Penn State 3
Thrifty Car Rental Holiday Bowl	San Diego	Dec. 30	Hawaii 27, Illinois 17
USF&G Sugar Bowl	New Orleans	Jan. 1	Alabama 34, Miami (Fla.) 13
Weiser Lock Copper Bowl	Tucson, Ariz.	Dec. 29	Washington State 31, Utah 28

*Changed name from Blockbuster Bowl.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

MAJOR COLLEGE

DIVISION I-AA

AP	COACHES	TSN
Year—Team	Team	Team
1936—Minnesota	.....	.....
1937—Pittsburgh	.....	.....
1938—Texas Christian	.....	.....
1939—Texas A&M	.....	.....
1940—Minnesota	.....	.....
1941—Minnesota	.....	.....
1942—Ohio State	.....	.....
1943—Notre Dame	.....	.....
1944—Army	.....	.....
1945—Army	.....	.....
1946—Notre Dame	.....	.....
1947—Notre Dame	.....	.....
1948—Michigan	.....	.....
1949—Notre Dame	.....	.....
1950—Oklahoma	Oklahoma	.....
1951—Tennessee	Tennessee	.....
1952—Michigan St.	Michigan St.	.....
1953—Maryland	Maryland	.....
1954—Ohio State	UCLA	.....
1955—Oklahoma	Oklahoma	.....
1956—Oklahoma	Oklahoma	.....
1957—Auburn	Ohio State	.....
1958—Louisiana St.	Louisiana St.	.....
1959—Syracuse	Syracuse	.....
1960—Minnesota	Minnesota	.....
1961—Alabama	Alabama	.....
1962—Southern Cal	Southern Cal	.....
1963—Texas	Texas	.....
1964—Alabama	Alabama	.....
1965—Alabama	Michigan St.	.....
1966—Notre Dame	Notre Dame	.....
1967—Southern Cal	Southern Cal	.....
1968—Ohio State	Ohio State	.....
1969—Texas	Texas	.....
1970—Nebraska	Texas	.....
1971—Nebraska	Nebraska	.....
1972—Southern Cal	Southern Cal	.....
1973—Notre Dame	Alabama	.....
1974—Oklahoma	Southern Cal	.....
1975—Oklahoma	Oklahoma	.....
1976—Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	.....
1977—Notre Dame	Notre Dame	.....
1978—Alabama	Southern Cal	.....
1979—Alabama	Alabama	.....
1980—Georgia	Georgia	.....
1981—Clemson	Clemson	.....
1982—Penn State	Penn State	.....
1983—Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)	.....
1984—BYU	BYU	.....
1985—Oklahoma	Oklahoma	.....
1986—Penn State	Penn State	.....
1987—Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)	.....
1988—Notre Dame	Notre Dame	.....
1989—Miami (Fla.)	Miami (Fla.)	.....
1990—Colorado	Georgia Tech	.....
1991—Miami (Fla.)	Washington	.....
1992—Alabama	Alabama	.....

NOTE: The coaches' poll switched its affiliation from United Press International to USA Today/CNN in 1991.

Year—Champion	Runner-up
1978—Florida A&M	Massachusetts
1979—Eastern Kentucky	Lehigh (Pa.)
1980—Boise (Idaho) State	Eastern Kentucky
1981—Idaho State	Eastern Kentucky
1982—Eastern Kentucky	Delaware
1983—Southern Illinois	Western Carolina
1984—Montana State	Louisiana Tech
1985—Georgia Southern	Furman (S.C.)
1986—Georgia Southern	Arkansas State
1987—NE Louisiana	Marshall (W.Va.)
1988—Furman	Georgia Southern
1989—Georgia Southern	S.F. Austin St. (Tex.)
1990—Georgia Southern	Nevada
1991—Youngstown (O.) St.	Marshall
1992—Marshall	Youngstown State

DIVISION II

Year—Champion	Runner-up
1973—Louisiana Tech	Western Kentucky
1974—Central Michigan	Delaware
1975—Northern Michigan	Western Kentucky
1976—Montana State	Akron (O.)
1977—Lehigh (Pa.)	Jacksonville (Ala.) St.
1978—Eastern Illinois	Delaware
1979—Delaware	Youngstown (O.) St.
1980—Cal Poly SLO	Eastern Illinois
1981—SW Texas State	North Dakota State
1982—SW Texas State	UC Davis
1983—North Dakota State	Central (O.) State
1984—Troy (Ala.) State	North Dakota State
1985—North Dakota State	North Alabama
1986—North Dakota State	South Dakota
1987—Troy State	Portland (Ore.) State
1988—North Dakota State	Portland State
1989—Mississippi College	Jacksonville State
1990—North Dakota State	Indiana (Pa.)
1991—Pittsburg (Kan.) St.	Jacksonville State
1992—Jacksonville State	Pittsburg State

DIVISION III

Year—Champion	Runner-up
1973—Wittenberg (O.)	Juniata (Pa.)
1974—Central (Ia.)	Ithaca (N.Y.)
1975—Wittenberg	Ithaca
1976—St. John's (Minn.)	Towson (Md.) State
1977—Widener (Pa.)	Wabash (Ind.)
1978—Baldwin-Wallace (O.)	Wittenberg
1979—Ithaca	Ithaca
1980—Dayton (O.)	Dayton
1981—Widener	Augustana (Ill.)
1982—West Georgia	Union (N.Y.)
1983—Augustana	Central
1984—Augustana	Ithaca
1985—Augustana	Salisbury (Md.) State
1986—Augustana	Dayton
1987—Wagner (N.Y.)	Central
1988—Ithaca	Union
1989—Dayton	Lycorning (Pa.)
1990—Allegheny (Pa.)	Dayton
1991—Ithaca	Wash. & Jeff. (Pa.)
1992—Wisconsin-La Crosse	



The Sporting News FANTASY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

Overview

The Sporting News Fantasy Football Challenge consists of 25-team leagues and 250-team divisions which vie for league and division prizes as well as the overall grand prize. Each entry received is randomly grouped with other entries to form 25-team leagues. Ten leagues are then grouped to form a 250-team division. All teams in all divisions compete for the overall grand prize money. Each team has a 20-player starting roster that cannot exceed a \$30,000,000 salary cap. In addition, each team has a 10-player taxi squad. Team owners can make changes to their roster during the season for a nominal charge via a toll-free 800 service. Eight statistical categories are used to determine league, division and overall standings for each team using a Rotisserie®-style ranking system. Each team owner receives a report package every two weeks.

Prize Money

The following prize money will be awarded at the end of the 1993 football season. In addition, at the end of each month, non-cash prizes will be awarded to division leaders.

<u>Place Finish</u>	<u>Overall Prizes</u> (all entries)	<u>Division Prizes</u> (per 250-team division)	<u>League Prizes</u> (per 25-team league)
1st	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$300
2nd	\$5,000	\$500	\$150
3rd	\$2,500	\$250	\$75
4th	\$1,000	\$100	\$50
5th	\$750	\$50	\$25
6th to 10th	\$500	\$30	
11th to 15th	\$250	\$25	
16th to 25th	\$100	\$20	

FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

Cost To Play

- \$99.00 for one entry. Once the entry has been received by CBC Distribution & Marketing, Inc. (CDM, Inc.), it will be processed within five working days and a confirmation of receipt will be sent. A personalized Welcome Package then will be mailed to the team owner.
- \$89.00 for one entry if it is postmarked by Aug. 16, 1993.
- \$89.00 for each additional entry.
- \$15.00 for reports to be mailed to a second address.
- \$15.00 per address for reports to be mailed every week rather than bi-weekly.
- \$5.00 for each taxi-squad switch. For a switch, a team owner moves a player from the taxi squad to the starting team, and moves a player from the starting team to the taxi squad. These moves are unlimited.
- \$10.00 for each new player purchase. For a purchase, a team owner adds a new player to either his starting team or taxi squad, and drops a player from the corresponding roster. These moves are limited to 6 during the season.
- No charge to acquire a free agent and drop a player from your team. Seven free agents will appear in *The Sporting News* each week. No more than 2 free agents may be acquired during the season.
- \$3.00 for each player transaction before the pro football season begins. These moves (switches and purchases) are unlimited until Saturday, September 4, 1993, 11 PM Central Daylight Savings Time.
- Fax service available on Thursdays. Call for details.

League Formation

- Leagues and divisions are formed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 25 teams form a league. 10 leagues form a division.
- Teams may have many of the same players, but no two teams with the same roster will be in the same league.
- If you send in multiple entries, please specify if you would like the teams entered in the same or different leagues and/or divisions.
- If you and your friends would like to be in the same league, please mail the entry forms in together or call for special instructions.

Roster

- Each starting team consists of 20 players who can be from any of the 28 pro football teams and whose total salaries do not exceed the \$30,000,000 salary cap. Each team has:

3 kickers	6 running backs	6 wide receivers
3 quarterbacks	2 tight ends	
- A player's position, as listed in these rules for the challenge, has been assigned by CDM, Inc., and will remain the same for the entire 1993 season. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
- Players not listed in these rules can only be placed on the taxi squad. Based on play during the 1993 season, CDM, Inc. will assign positions to unlisted players and mail this information to all team owners. Once a position is assigned, the unlisted player then may be moved to the starting team. The salary for unlisted players is

\$1,000,000. This includes all 1993 draft choices.

- Player salaries are set by CDM, Inc. and will not change during the season.
- Each team selects a taxi squad consisting of 10 players. These players are backups for the starting team and may be used during the season to replace a starter for any reason. (Typically the taxi squad is used to replace injured players and players that do not perform as expected.) The \$30,000,000 salary cap and position distribution rules do not apply to the taxi squad. If these players are moved to the starting team, however, the salary cap and position rules do apply.

Scoring System

- Each team will be ranked within its league, division and overall by eight statistical categories:

Total Scoring	Total Receiving Yards
Kicker Scoring	Receiving Yards Average
Total Rushing Yards	Total Passing Yards
Rushing Yards Average	Passing Yards Average

- The following formula is used to calculate Total Scoring: (Rushing TDs x 6)+(Passing TDs x 3)+(Receiving TDs x 3) + (Field Goals x 3)+(Extra Points x 1)+(Other TDs x 6).
- To calculate Rushing Yards Average, your team's total rushing yards are divided by your team's total attempts. To calculate Receiving Yards Average, your team's total receiving yards are divided by team total receptions. To calculate Passing Yards Average, your team's total passing yards are divided by team total completions.
- In each of the 8 categories, teams are ranked from first to last and points are assigned based on these rankings. For instance, if you are in a 25-team league, the team that finishes first in a category earns 25 points, the second place team earns 24 points, and so forth down to the last place team which earns 1 point. This system works for all 8 categories, each of which have equal value. The most points a team in a 25-team league could receive if it won every category is 200 points. The most points a team in a 250-team division could receive if it won every category is 2000 points. In the overall team ranking, the maximum number of possible points is determined by the total number of entries in *The Sporting News Fantasy Football Challenge*. Points are re-calculated each week to determine team standings.
- Stats are accumulated weekly for all 20 starting players. The stat week begins with games played on Thursday and ends with games played on Monday.
- All pro football statistics accumulated by the players on the starting team, regardless of what position they play during the season, contribute to a team's statistics totals.
- Taxi squad players' statistics do not contribute to a team's statistics totals.
- A player's stats are added to your team's total stats only during the weeks that he is on your starting team. When a player is placed on the starting team, he begins accumulating stats for your team during the games following the transaction. Previous stats achieved by the player before he was placed on your starting team are not included in your team totals.

FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

- Pre-season and post-season statistics do not contribute to a team's statistics totals.
- Division points are calculated by ranking your team's statistics totals versus every other team's in your division's 10 leagues. Overall points are calculated by ranking your team's stat totals versus all other entries' in *The Sporting News Fantasy Football Challenge*.

Reports

- Team names, owners, hometowns, and rosters for all teams in your league will be mailed the week of September 13, 1993.
- Bi-weekly reports will be mailed to you every other Wednesday beginning September 15, 1993. These reports will include your team summary, league summary, player transactions for all teams in your league, the top 25 division leaders and the top 25 teams overall.
- Roster updates can be compiled from your league's bi-weekly transaction reports.
- For those who purchase weekly reports, the first weekly report will be mailed Wednesday, September 22, 1993.
- Updated league rosters will be provided twice during the season. The rosters of the top 5 teams in your division and of the top 5 teams overall also will be mailed twice during the season.

Additional Rules

- To enter, complete the entry form and mail with check, money order or credit card payment to:
CBC Distribution & Marketing, Inc.
2043 Woodland Parkway, Suite 200
St. Louis, MO 63146
- Entries must be postmarked no later than Saturday, September 4, 1993 and received no later than Saturday, September 11, 1993. Entries with invalid postmarks and entries with valid postmarks but received after September 11 will be returned. CDM, Inc. is not responsible for lost or misdirected mail.
- Telephone and fax entries will be accepted until Saturday, September 4, 1993, 11 PM Central Daylight Savings Time. Call 1-800-568-6288 to enter via phone. Call 1-314-991-1564 to enter via fax. Phone and fax entries must be paid with MasterCard or VISA.

- *The Sporting News Fantasy Football Challenge* welcomes entries from around the world. All fees, however, must be paid with U.S. funds. For overseas entries, please add \$15 to cover additional mailing costs. If needed, our toll number is 1-314-991-1511.
- Player transactions cannot be made until your team has been entered into the computer database. Teams will be entered within five working days of receipt.
- To make player transactions, a toll-free 800 number and an account number will be provided. Player transactions can be made Tuesday through Sunday.
- Player transactions must be made by Saturday, 11 PM Central Time in order to be effective for the upcoming Sunday and Monday games. Player transactions involving players in Thursday-Saturday games must be made by 9 PM Central Time on the day prior to game day. Once a team has played, the status of every player on that team is frozen until the following Tuesday. No player transactions will be accepted on Mondays. Once completed, a player transaction is final and cannot be changed.
- To make transactions, a MasterCard or Visa must be provided to which fees will be billed. Otherwise, payment via check or money order must be received in advance of any transactions.
- There will be a \$25 fee for any returned check. Delinquent accounts over 30 days will be dropped from the league with the team's roster frozen at that point. Prizes only will be awarded to teams whose accounts are paid in full.
- You must be 18 years or older to participate.
- No employees of CDM, Inc., The Sporting News, or their families are eligible to play.
- CDM, Inc. reserves the right to revise any rules to improve *The Sporting News Fantasy Football Challenge*.
- To receive a copy of the rules and a one-time team selection entry form void of all services, no purchase necessary, send a letter-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to: CDM, Inc., 2043 Woodland Parkway, Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63146. One request per household. All requests must be received by August 21, 1993.
- Void where prohibited by law.
- Further explanation of all rules will be contained in your Welcome Package.
- If you have questions regarding the rules of *The Sporting News Fantasy Football Challenge*, call 1-800-568-6288.

Player Salaries

Kickers		
ID	Player	SALARY
1	LOHMILLER, CHIP	3200000
2	ELLIOTT, LIN	2960000
3	STOYANOVICH, PET	2790000
4	ANDERSEN, MORTEN	2750000
5	COFER, MIKE	2640000
6	LOWERY, NICK	2600000
7	ANDERSON, G.	2470000
8	CARNEY, JOHN	2400000
9	RUZEK, ROGER	2390000
10	REVEIZ, FUAD	2360000

Kickers		
ID	Player	SALARY
11	JOHNSON, NORM	2360000
12	TREADWELL, DAVID	2340000
13	JAEGER, JEFF	2220000
14	HANSON, JASON	2220000
15	CHRISTIE, STEVE	2210000
16	BUTLER, KEVIN	2200000
17	BRECH, JIM	2180000
18	JACKE, CHRIS	2170000
19	WILLIS, KEN	2140000
20	STOVER, MATT	2110000

Kickers		
ID	Player	SALARY
21	BAHR, MATT	1980000
22	ZENDEJAS, TONY	1980000
23	DEL GRECO, AL	1850000
24	KASAY, JOHN	1810000
25	DAVIS, GREG	1770000
26	MURRAY, EDDIE	1580000
27	BIASUCCI, DEAN	1530000
28	BLANCHARD, CARY	1490000
29	BAUMANN, CHARLIE	1190000
30	STAUROVSKY, JASO	720000
	Any Other Kicker	1000000

FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

Quarterbacks

ID	Player	TM	SALARY
101	YOUNG, STEVE	SF	3000000
102	CUNNINGHAM, RAND	PHI	2930000
103	MARINO, DAN	MIA	2900000
104	KELLY, JIM	BUF	2780000
105	MOON, WARREN	HOU	2720000
106	HUMPHRIES, STAN	SD	2550000
107	RYPIEN, MARK	WAS	2480000
108	EVERETT, JIM	LA	2430000
109	HARBAUGH, JIM	CHI	2410000
110	ELWAY, JOHN	DEN	2270000
111	AIKMAN, TROY	DAL	2270000
112	MILLER, CHRIS	ATL	2140000
113	MONTANA, JOE	KC	2000000
114	KRIEG, DAVE	KC	1950000
115	HEBERT, BOBBY	ATL	1890000
116	TESTAVERDE, VINN	CLE	1860000
117	GANNON, RICH	MIN	1820000
118	KOSAR, BERNIE	CLE	1740000
119	SCHROEDER, JAY	CIN	1680000
120	GEORGE, JEFF	IND	1680000
121	MILLEN, HUGH	DAL	1660000
122	ESIASON, BOOMER	NYJ	1630000
123	O'DONNELL, NEIL	PIT	1620000
124	HOSTETLER, JEFF	RAI	1600000
125	CHANDLER, CHRIS	PHO	1560000
126	O'BRIEN, KEN	GB	1410000
127	FAVRE, BRETT	GB	1390000
128	PEETE, RODNEY	DET	1340000
129	TOMCZAK, MIKE	PIT	1320000
130	DEBERG, STEVE	TB	1260000
131	MCAHON, JIM	MIN	1050000
132	WILSON, WADE	NO	1010000
133	KRAMER, ERIK	DET	980000
134	TUPA, TOM	IND	930000
135	SIMMS, PHIL	NYG	900000
136	BONO, STEVE	SF	890000
137	GELBAUGH, STAN	SEA	870000
138	NAGLE, BROWNING	NYJ	860000
139	SALISBURY, SEAN	MIN	850000
140	CARLSON, CODY	HOU	830000
141	BRISTER, BUBBY	PIT	830000
142	MAJKOWSKI, DON	GB	810000
143	MADDOX, TOMMY	DEN	680000
144	MARINOVICH, TODD	RAI	660000
145	KLINGLER, DAVID	CIN	610000
146	ZOLAK, SCOTT	NE	610000
147	TOLLIVER, BILLY	ATL	590000
148	WARE, ANDRE	DET	550000
149	GRAHAM, KENT	NYG	550000
150	HOLLAS, DONALD	CIN	530000
151	TRUDEAU, JACK	IND	510000
152	EVANS, VINCE	RAI	490000
153	STOUFFER, KELLY	SEA	490000
154	WILLIS, PETER TO	CHI	490000
155	MOORE, SHAWN	DEN	400000
156	CARLSON, JEFF	NE	400000
157	ROSENBAUGH, TIMM	PHO	380000
158	BEUERLEIN, STEVE	PHO	370000
159	HODSON, TOM	NE	370000
160	REICH, FRANK	BUF	280000
161	GAGLIANO, BOB	SD	240000
162	MCGWIRE, DAN	SEA	220000
163	GOEBEL, BRAD	CLE	210000
164	PHILCOX, TODD	CLE	190000
165	HERRMANN, MARK		180000
166	PAGEL, MIKE	LA	170000
167	BUCK, MIKE	NO	160000
168	MITCHELL, SCOTT	MIA	120000
169	CONKLIN, CARY	WAS	110000
170	SACCA, TONY	PHO	50000
	Any Other QB		1000000

Running Backs

ID	Player	TM	SALARY
201	SMITH, EMMITT	DAL	3000000
202	THOMAS, THURMAN	BUF	2800000
203	SANDERS, BARRY	DET	2670000
204	HAMPTON, RODNEY	NYG	2190000
205	WATTERS, RICKY	SF	2140000
206	FOSTER, BARRY	PIT	1950000
207	BYNER, EARNEST	WAS	1910000
208	WALKER, HERSCHEL	PHI	1890000
209	ALLEN, TERRY	MIN	1810000
210	COBB, REGGIE	TB	1770000
211	WHITE, LORENZO	HOU	1760000
212	HIGGS, MARK	MIA	1590000
213	ANDERSON, NEAL	CHI	1560000
214	GREEN, HAROLD	CIN	1530000
215	BUTTS, MARION	SD	1470000
216	BAXTER, BRAD	NYJ	1450000
217	OKOYE, CHRISTIAN	KC	1440000
218	GREEN, GASTON	RAI	1370000
219	JOHNSON, JOHNNY	NYJ	1360000
220	MACK, KEVIN	CLE	1360000
221	BERNSTINE, ROD	DEN	1330000
222	GARY, CLEVELAND	LA	1330000
223	HARMON, RONNIE	SD	1300000
224	WILLIAMS, JOHN L	SEA	1300000
225	DAVIS, KENNETH	BUF	1220000
226	WORD, BARRY	KC	1180000
227	ERVINS, RICKY	WAS	1160000
228	MUSTER, BRAD	NO	1160000
229	WORKMAN, VINCE	TB	1150000
230	DICKERSON, ERIC	RAI	1140000
231	DELPINO, ROBERT	DEN	1130000
232	RUSSELL, LEONARD	NE	1110000
233	THOMAS, BLAIR	NYJ	1050000
234	CULVER, RODNEY	IND	1020000
235	DUNBAR, VAUGHN	NO	1020000
236	HILLIARD, DALTON	NO	1000000
237	CRAIG, ROGER	MIN	990000
238	WARREN, CHRIS	SEA	960000
239	SHERMAN, HEATH	PHI	920000
240	FENNER, DERRICK	CIN	920000
241	BROUSSARD, STEVE	ATL	910000
242	JOHNSON, ANTHONY	IND	900000
243	HOARD, LEROY	CLE	900000
244	HOGUE, MERRIL	PIT	900000
245	RATHMAN, TOM	SF	880000
246	METCALF, ERIC	CLE	860000
247	HENDERSON, KEITH	MIN	850000
248	HEYWARD, CRAIG	CHI	830000
249	ALLEN, MARCUS	RAI	820000
250	LEE, AMP	SF	790000
251	BELL, NICK	RAI	790000
252	THOMPSON, DARREL	GB	770000
253	SYDNEY, HARRY	GB	760000
254	LEWIS, GREG	DEN	750000
255	WILLIAMS, HARVEY	KC	740000
256	MEGETT, DAVID	NYG	740000
257	VAUGHN, JON	NE	730000
258	BROOKS, JAMES		730000
259	VARDELL, TOMMY	CLE	730000
260	HUMPHREY, B.	MIA	720000
261	MCAFFEE, FRED	NO	680000
262	LANG, DAVID	LA	670000
263	SMITH, TONY	ATL	670000
264	CARTER, DEXTER	SF	660000
265	ANDERSON, GARY	TB	650000
266	MCAIR, TODD	KC	630000
267	MCNEIL, FREEMAN		630000
268	LEWIS, DARREN	CHI	630000
269	STEPHENS, JOHN	GB	610000
270	RIVERS, REGGIE	DEN	600000
271	BUNCH, JARROD	NYG	580000

Running Backs

ID	Player	TM	SALARY
272	SMITH, STEVE	RAI	580000
273	MCDOWELL, ANTHON	TB	570000
274	GREEN, MARK	CHI	570000
275	CLARK, KEN	IND	560000
276	WILLIAMS, WARREN	PIT	550000
277	BAILEY, JOHNNY	PHO	540000
278	GARDNER, CARWELL	BUF	540000
279	BROWN, IVORY LEE	PHO	510000
280	CENTERS, LARRY	PHO	510000
281	MITCHELL, BRIAN	WAS	510000
282	THOMPSON, LEROY	PIT	500000
283	CHAFFEY, PAT	NYJ	490000
284	BENNETT, EDGAR	GB	490000
285	HECTOR, JOHNNY		480000
286	NELSON, DARRIN		480000
287	PAIGE, TONY	MIA	480000
288	JONES, KEITH	ATL	480000
289	PEGRAM, ERIC	ATL	480000
290	SMITH, SAMMIE		460000
291	BIENIEMY, ERIC	SD	450000
292	THOMPSON, ANTHON	LA	450000
293	JOHNSTON, DARYL	DAL	440000
294	TILLMAN, LEWIS	NYG	410000
295	BROWN, GARY	HOU	360000
296	BALL, ERIC	CIN	340000
297	LOCKWOOD, SCOTT	NE	330000
298	JORDAN, BUFORD		330000
299	TURNER, KEVIN	NE	320000
300	FULLER, EDDIE	BUF	310000
301	MCGEE, BUFORD		290000
302	THOMPSON, ERNIE		280000
303	GREEN, ROBERT	WAS	280000
304	JENNINGS, STANFO		270000
305	BALDWIN, RANDY	CLE	270000
306	STRADFORD, TROY		270000
307	RICHARDS, CURVIN	DET	260000
308	LOGAN, MARC	SF	260000
309	MCCALLUM, NAP	RAI	260000
310	ANDERSON, OTTIS	NYG	250000
311	CRAYER, AARON	MIA	250000
312	MAYES, RUEBEN	SEA	240000
313	PARMALEE, BERNIE	MIA	230000
314	PERRYMAN, ROBERT		230000
315	AGEE, TOMMIE	DAL	230000
316	CARTHON, MAURICE	IND	230000
317	SIKAHEMA, VAI	PHI	200000
318	ANDERS, KIMBLE	KC	190000
319	TILLISON, ED	DET	190000
320	HIGHSMITH, ALONZ	KC	190000
321	SAXON, JAMES	MIA	180000
322	BROWN, A.B.		180000
323	GAINER, DERRICK	DAL	160000
324	WOLFLEY, RON	CLE	130000
325	TILLMAN, SPENCER	HOU	130000
326	MILES, OSTEAL	CIN	110000
327	JONES, BILL		100000
328	GRAHAM, SCOTTIE	NYJ	90000
329	GASH, SAM	NE	90000
330	ROYSTER, MAZIO	TB	80000
331	CANLEY, SHELDON		70000
332	BENTLEY, ALBERT		70000
333	JONES, VICTOR	NYG	60000
334	BLOUNT, ERIC	PHO	30000
	Any Other RB		1000000

The player's team designation is based on information available as of May 10, 1993.

FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

Tight Ends

ID	Player	TM	SALARY
401	NOVACEK, JAY	DAL	1500000
402	JACKSON, KEITH	MIA	1470000
403	HORTON, ETHAN	RAI	1310000
404	COOK, MARV	NE	1300000
405	BYARS, KEITH	PHI	1290000
406	JONES, BRENT	SF	1270000
407	JORDAN, STEVE	MIN	1200000
408	SHARPE, SHANNON	DEN	1140000
409	GREEN, ERIC	PIT	1110000
410	HARRIS, JACKIE	GB	1070000
411	ORR, TERRY	WAS	1050000
412	HOLMAN, RODNEY	DET	960000
413	CROSS, HOWARD	NYG	940000
414	PRICE, JIM	LA	940000
415	BAVARO, MARK	PHI	900000
416	HALL, RON	TB	820000
417	CASH, KERRY	IND	800000
418	ARMSTRONG, TYJI	TB	750000
419	METZELAARS, PETE	BUF	740000
420	MCKELLER, KEITH	BUF	730000
421	COOPER, ADRIAN	PIT	710000
422	MITCHELL, JOHNNY	NYJ	700000
423	WALKER, DERRICK	SD	700000
424	THOMPSON, CRAIG	CIN	660000
425	GALBRAITH, SCOTT	CLE	640000
426	CARTER, PAT	LA	630000
427	JENNINGS, KEITH	CHI	610000
428	MCNEAL, TRAVIS	LA	580000
429	BATY, GREG	MIA	580000
430	HAYES, JONATHAN	KC	580000
431	ARBUCKLE, CHARLE	IND	570000
432	BRENNER, HOBY	NO	560000
433	WILLIAMS, JAMIE	SF	560000
434	GLOVER, ANDREW	RAI	550000
435	JOHNSON, REGGIE	DEN	540000
436	COATES, BEN	NE	530000
437	SADOWSKI, TROY	NYJ	520000
438	EDMUNDS, FERRELL	SEA	490000
439	HOLAHAN, PETE	CLE	480000
440	WAINRIGHT, FRANK	NO	470000
441	TICE, MIKE	MIN	460000
442	WEST, ED	GB	450000
443	BOYER, MARK	NYJ	440000
444	KAY, CLARENCE		410000
445	SMITH, JOEY	NYG	400000
446	BEACH, PAT	PHI	400000
447	JONES, DAVID	RAI	400000
448	JOHNSON, MAURICE	PHI	380000
449	ROBERTS, ALFREDO	DAL	380000
450	WRIGHT, ERIC	CHI	360000
451	JORDEN, TIM	PIT	350000
452	BLACKWELL, KELLY	CHI	350000
453	NOVOSELSKY, BREN	MIN	340000
454	WARE, DEREK	PHO	340000
455	AWALT, ROBERT	BUF	320000
456	HELLER, RON	SEA	300000
457	JUNKIN, TREY	SEA	290000
458	YOUNG, DUANE	SD	270000
459	HINNANT, MIKE		270000
460	WARREN, DON	WAS	260000
461	NEWMAN, PAT	NO	260000
462	MOORE, DAVE	TB	260000
463	MIDDLETON, RON	WAS	240000
464	BROWN, DEREK	NYG	230000
465	ROLLE, BUTCH	PHO	220000
466	WHISENHUNT, KEN	NYJ	220000
467	RIGGS, JIM	WAS	200000
468	JOHNSON, JIMMIE	DET	190000
469	THOMASON, JEFF	CIN	190000
470	REEVES, WALTER	PHO	180000
471	DYAL, MIKE	KC	180000
472	STOWERS, TOMMIE	NO	170000
	Any Other TE		1000000

Wide Receivers

ID	Player	TM	SALARY
501	IRVIN, MICHAEL	DAL	2000000
502	RICE, JERRY	SF	1980000
503	CLARK, GARY	PHO	1690000
504	REED, ANDRE	BUF	1670000
505	HAYNES, MICHAEL	ATL	1670000
506	RISON, ANDRE	ATL	1660000
507	JEFFRIES, HAYWOO	HOU	1520000
508	GIVINS, ERNEST	HOU	1480000
509	LOFTON, JAMES	RAI	1470000
510	BARNETT, FRED	PHI	1440000
511	DUPER, MARK	MIA	1410000
512	CLAYTON, MARK	MIA	1350000
513	MONK, ART	WAS	1350000
514	MARTIN, ERIC	NO	1310000
515	MILLER, ANTHONY	SD	1310000
516	FRYAR, IRVING	MIA	1290000
517	MOORE, ROB	NYJ	1280000
518	DAVIS, WENDELL	CHI	1270000
519	ELLARD, HENRY	LA	1260000
520	CARTER, CRIS	MIN	1250000
521	TAYLOR, JOHN	SF	1210000
522	DAVIS, WILLIE	KC	1190000
523	HILL, DREW	ATL	1190000
524	JONES, ERNIE	PHO	1170000
525	DAWSEY, LAWRENCE	TB	1140000
526	CARTER, ANTHONY	MIN	1140000
527	BROWN, TIM	RAI	1130000
528	JACKSON, MARK	NYG	1130000
529	STONE, DWIGHT	PIT	1120000
530	HESTER, JESSIE	IND	1110000
531	PROEHL, RICKY	PHO	1110000
532	SANDERS, RICKY	WAS	1080000
533	PRITCHARD, MIKE	ATL	1080000
534	GREEN, WILLIE	DET	1070000
535	SLAUGHTER, WEBST	HOU	1060000
536	MARSHALL, ARTHUR	DEN	1060000
537	DUNCAN, CURTIS	HOU	1050000
538	PERITMAN, BRETT	DET	1040000
539	CARRIER, MARK J	CLE	1030000
540	ANDERSON, WILLIE	LA	1010000
541	MCCAFFREY, ED	NYG	990000
542	LEWIS, NATE	SD	990000
543	EARLY, QUINN	NO	980000
544	HILL, RANDAL	PHO	980000
545	BROOKS, BILL	BUF	970000
546	WADDLE, TOM	CHI	970000
547	MC GEE, TIM	WAS	960000
548	JACKSON, MICHAEL	CLE	950000
549	INGRAM, MARK	MIA	950000
550	BLADES, BRIAN	SEA	940000
551	SHARPE, STERLING	GB	920000
552	BARNETT, TIM	KC	920000
553	LANGHORNE, REGGI	IND	910000
554	MOORE, HERMAN	DET	910000
555	BIRDEN, JJ	KC	910000
556	KANE, TOMMY	SEA	900000
557	TOON, AL		890000
558	GAULT, WILLIE	RAI	870000
559	BEEBE, DON	BUF	860000
560	BURKETT, CHRIS	NYJ	860000
561	TURNER, FLOYD	NO	860000
562	TILLMAN, LAWYER	CLE	850000
563	WILLIAMS, CALVIN	PHI	840000
564	BAKER, STEPHEN	NYG	830000
565	MARTIN, TONY	MIA	830000
566	HARPER, ALVIN	DAL	810000
567	MC MURTRY, GREG	NE	800000
568	SHERRARD, MIKE	NYG	760000
569	MORGAN, ANTHONY	CHI	740000
570	TIMPSON, MICHAEL	NE	690000
571	CLARK, ROBERT		680000
572	MATHIS, TERENCE	NYJ	680000

Wide Receivers

ID	Player	TM	SALARY
573	HAWKINS, COURTNE	TB	680000
574	MARTIN, KELVIN	SEA	680000
575	FERNANDEZ, MERVY	SF	670000
576	JONES, HASSAN		650000
577	GRADY, SAM	RAI	640000
578	PICKENS, CARL	CIN	640000
579	GRAHAM, JEFF	PIT	620000
580	TURNER, ODESSA	SF	610000
581	DREWREY, WILLIE	HOU	610000
582	CHADWICK, JEFF	LA	610000
583	YOUNG, MICHAEL	KC	590000
584	MILLS, ERNIE	PIT	580000
585	SMALL, TORRANCE	NO	580000
586	LIPPS, LOUIS	PIT	570000
587	CALLOWAY, CHRIS	NYG	560000
588	TILLMAN, CEDRIC	DEN	530000
589	JEFFERSON, SHAWN	SD	530000
590	REED, JAKE	MIN	520000
591	THOMAS, ROBB	SEA	520000
592	JOHNSON, VANCE	DEN	520000
593	BANKS, FRED	MIA	520000
594	HARRY, EMILE	DEN	520000
595	CLARK, LOUIS	SEA	520000
596	HARRIS, LEONARD	HOU	510000
597	CARROLL, WESLEY	NO	500000
598	WRIGHT, ALEXANDE	RAI	490000
599	QUERY, JEFF	CIN	480000
600	COX, AARON	IND	470000
601	RUSSELL, DERRICK	DEN	470000
602	LAMB, BRAD	BUF	460000
603	BRENNAN, BRIAN	SD	460000
604	DAVENPORT, CHARL	PIT	450000
605	CAMPBELL, JEFF	DET	450000
606	FARR, MIKE	NE	440000
607	THOMAS, GEORGE	TB	440000
608	GREEN, ROY	PHI	440000
609	JONES, TONY	ATL	440000
610	VERDIN, CLARENCE	IND	400000
611	STANLEY, WALTER		400000
612	HARGAIN, TONY	KC	400000
613	JONES, FRED	KC	390000
614	REMBERT, REGGIE	CIN	380000
615	EDWARDS, AL	BUF	370000
616	BARRETT, REGGIE	DET	370000
617	GRAY, MEL	DET	360000
618	BROOKS, ROBERT	GB	360000
619	BARBER, MIKE		350000
620	MORRIS, RON	CHI	350000
621	GENTRY, DENNIS		340000
622	LEWIS, RON	GB	340000
623	TAYLOR, KITRICK	DEN	330000
624	CARPENTER, ROB	NYJ	330000
625	CASH, KEITH	KC	320000
626	DANIELS, DAVID	SEA	310000
627	TASKER, STEVE	BUF	310000
628	JOHNSON, JOE	MIN	310000
629	DIXON, FLOYD		300000
630	MATTHEWS, AUBREY	DET	290000
631	TURNER, VERNON	DET	280000
632	JACKSON, JOHN		270000
633	COLEMAN, PATRICK	HOU	270000
634	WAGNER, BARRY	CHI	270000
635	SMITH, RICO	CLE	270000
636	EDWARDS, ANTHONY	PHO	260000
637	STEGALL, MILT	CIN	260000
638	CLAIBORNE, ROBER	TB	250000
639	DIDIO, MARK	PIT	250000
640	HOLLAND, JAMIE	GB	230000
641	BEACH, SANJAY	GB	220000
642	THOMAS, DOUG	SEA	220000
643	PHILLIPS, JASON	ATL	220000
644	HOWARD, DESMOND	WAS	220000
	Any Other WR		1000000

The player's team designation is based on information available as of May 10, 1993.



FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

Send this form with payment to: CDM, Inc., 2043 Woodland Parkway Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63146

For more information or questions, call 1-800-568-6288.

Entry forms must be postmarked no later than September 4, 1993 and received no later than September 11.

Please note: Another copy of the player salaries will be included in your Welcome Package!

I. Team Owner Information

Name																										
Team Name																										
Address																										
City													State					Zip								
Phone													Fax													

II. Billing Information

\$89 Entry (postmarked by August 16, 1993)	_____	Payment:	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa
\$99 Entry (postmarked after August 16, 1993)	_____		<input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order
Additional Entries	Quantity _____ x \$89.00 = _____	Credit Card #	_____	
Weekly Reports	Quantity _____ x \$15.00 = _____	Exp. Date	_____ Signature _____	
Other	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please bill my player transactions to this card.		
TOTAL PAYMENT	_____			

Make checks and money orders payable to: CDM, Inc.

III. Starting Team

Pos	Id	Name	Salary	Pos	Id	Name	Salary
K	_____	_____	_____	RB	_____	_____	_____
K	_____	_____	_____	RB	_____	_____	_____
K	_____	_____	_____	TE	_____	_____	_____
QB	_____	_____	_____	TE	_____	_____	_____
QB	_____	_____	_____	WR	_____	_____	_____
QB	_____	_____	_____	WR	_____	_____	_____
RB	_____	_____	_____	WR	_____	_____	_____
RB	_____	_____	_____	WR	_____	_____	_____
RB	_____	_____	_____	WR	_____	_____	_____
RB	_____	_____	_____	WR	_____	_____	_____

Total Team Salary \$ _____

IV. Taxi Squad

Pos	Id	Name	Salary	Pos	Id	Name	Salary
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	6. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	7. _____	_____	_____	_____
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